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**THE**

*Country*

**GUIDE**

Published monthly in the LIVING ROOM

*Apple*



DECEMBER, 1954

*Edith Bess*

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*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*  
—LUKE 2:11

The color, vibrance and intense individuality characteristic of Canadian children's art is shown in this nativity scene drawn in crayon by Anne Peacock during a creative art program in the school broadcast series "It's Fun to Draw," presented by the Manitoba Department of Education in co-operation with the Prairie Departments of Education and the CBC. Anne was a Grade IX student at Earl Oxford Junior High School, Brandon, Manitoba.

## Following the Christmas Star

For more than nineteen hundred years the sacred pilgrimage of the Wise Men, guided by the radiant light of the Bethlehem Star, to the lowly stable where Christ was born has influenced the thoughts and actions of succeeding generations of Christian believers.

Far and wide across our Western Prairies, in farm communities, villages, towns and cities, the Christmas message of "good will to men" will once again find expression in the good-neighbor spirit that is so characteristic of our western way of life.

It is in this spirit, on behalf of the Board of Directors, the management, and the entire personnel of United Grain Growers Limited that I extend to you and yours

## The Season's Greetings

J. E. BROWNLEE, President

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LIMITED



[Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts.]

## THE *Country* GUIDE

### From Cover to Cover

DECEMBER, 1954

Cover—by Clyde Ross

Prairie Weather—by Dr. Irving Krick and Staff	5
Under the Peace Tower—by Hugh Boyd	14
Editorials	50

#### ARTICLES

Pushing up Grain Yields—by Ralph Hedlin	7
Christmas Tree Farms—by Don Meade	8
Belgian Farm—by Peter Hendry	10
Glad Christmas Morning—Picture story by Eric Wahleen	11
Cavalcade of Royal Winners—by J. Albert Hand	4
Report From Rome—by John Anderson	46
Odd and Interesting—by Mike Rivise	46
Winter Road—by Maud Strike	46
Notes from British Columbia	48
The Birth of Windy Willy	48
Make Christmas Trees Last Longer	48
Fertilizer on One Farm	48
Electric Drill Does a New Job—by J. Gilbert Hall	48

#### FICTION

The Evening Star—by Olive Knox	9
The Full Basket—by Mark Hager	42

#### FARM

News of Agriculture	15	Poultry	21
Get It At a Glance	16	Farm Young People	22
Livestock	17	What's New	23
Field	18	Workshop	24
Horticulture	20		

#### HOME

The Countrywoman—by Amy J. Roe	35
Damascus—by Marjorie Freeman Campbell	36
Half a Turkey . . . and All the Trimmings—by Lillian Vigrass	38
Christmas Is Memory Time	41
Needlework	43
Dressed for the Holiday (Patterns)	44
The Country Boy and Girl	49
Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors—No. 34—by Clarence Tillenius	49

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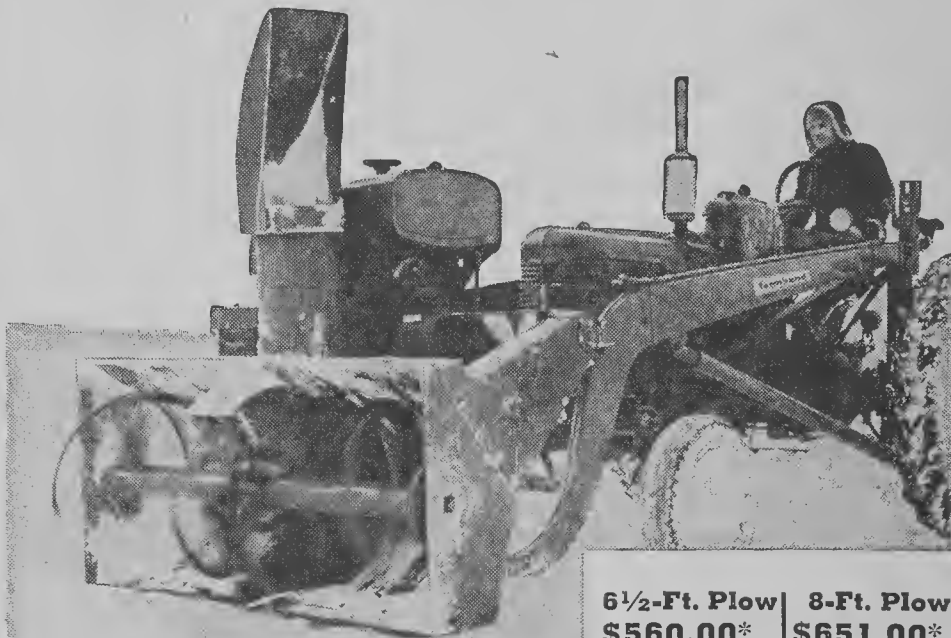
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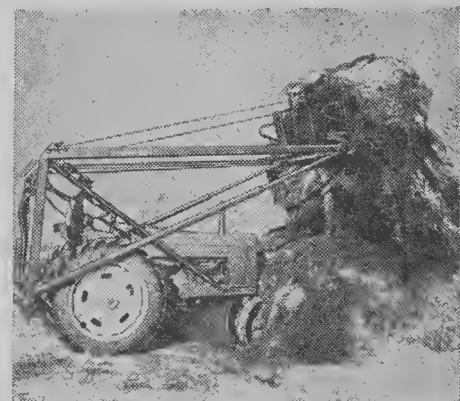
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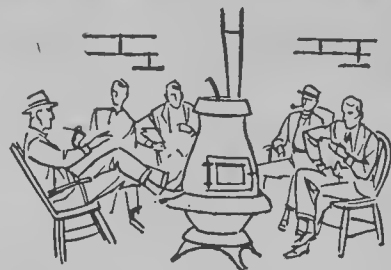
# MEETING PLACE

TIME WAS when farmers and buyers of livestock were next door neighbours. They often got together to discuss each others problems. Even within our lifetime the livestock and meat industry has seen great changes.

These have been the natural outcome of Canada's great industrial development. New and larger cities have grown up across the country.

## Everybody now a Specialist

To provide the meat animals for the nation, producers have become specialists in the science of livestock production. Cattle, hogs and sheep are bred, fed and managed for early maturity of desirable types, for economic and rapid growth, and for increased carrying capacity per farm. These animals, when ready for market,



are shipped to stockyards or packing plants.

Processing of livestock, too has become highly specialized. New uses for by-products, through research have been found. The developments in refrigeration, transportation and processing methods have changed the ways of supplying the nation's meat.

In this day when everyone is so busy with his own job, people don't have the opportunity to know of the other fellow's work. So we propose to use this Meeting Place to talk things over.

## THESE LITTLE PIGS GO TO MARKET —10 MONTHS LATER!

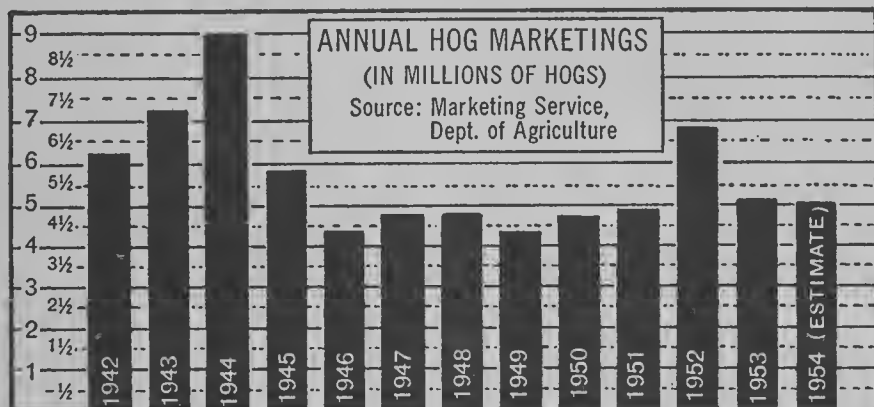
Today's hog producer has to be part pig breeder and part long-range forecaster! After making his plans, it is 10 to 11 months before his hogs will be ready for market. So, he has to plan how many hogs he wants to raise and in what months he will market them.

And what a lot he has to take into account! What his feed situation will be . . . the housing available for his brood sows and for litters after weaning . . . and the amount of time he can spare from his other farm work, to name but a few of the things he must consider.



He and some 364,000 other hog raisers, each making his own plans, determine the supply of hogs to come on the market.

A glance at the chart will show the supply of hogs that has come on the market in recent years.



## "DOC" BROWNELL'S CORNER

Seems to me that the livestock industry is a lot like a wagon. It's got four wheels on which it travels . . . the producer, the processor, the retailer and the consumer. If something happens to any one of these wheels, we're not going to

get very far—and it's just too bad if they don't all move in the same direction! Yes, we all need one another—if the livestock and meat industry is going to prosper and play its full part feeding the nation!

## THE INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF CANADIAN MEAT PACKERS

# Cavalcade of Royal Winners

*Grain, wool, dairy, swine honors to Ontario,  
but West shows well in beef classes at Royal*

by J. ALBERT HAND

OUTSTANDING among the many prize-winnings at this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair held in Toronto, November 12-20, was the achievement of an Ontario grower when he took the World Wheat Championship with a fine sample of a soft winter variety. As a result, the name of Wm. E. Breckon, Burlington, Ontario, appears on the plaque in Trophy Hall for this, the eighth contest. Twice the honor had gone to British Columbia and five times to Alberta. It should be noted that this was not a garden achievement. Mr. Breckon runs a 350-acre farm and this year had 120 acres in wheat. He has been showing at The Royal for eight years, during which time he won seven firsts and one second for Dawson's Golden Chaff and Cornell 595.

The Hard Red Spring Wheat top awards went to Frank Smith of Swan River, Manitoba, Russell Fulton of Portage la Prairie, Man., and Mrs. S. Chernipeski of Theodore, Sask., all on the Selkirk variety. In the section for Spring Wheat (any good milling variety) Alberta had the three best on Chinook. Ron Leonhardt, of Drumheller, former Trophy winner, was first, Norman Johnson of Granum, second, and Lees Leroy of Warner, third. Easterners were surprised at the absence of Marquis, which was so prominent in past years. Entries from England and Scotland were winners in many sections of grain and seed: taking Reserve Championship in Winter Wheat; Champion and Reserve on Oats; Reserve on Two-rowed Barley, and both honors in Peas.

In the fleece wool classes Freelan Wilford of Stavely, Alberta, took first and second on two entries in the Fine Medium section, while Ed Henline of Coutts had third on Cheviot. A. C. Stewart of Abbotsford, B.C., was first and second in Cheviot, and first in Cross-bred, as well as in Low Medium.

In sheep classes, Grenville and Trentham of Morrin, Alberta, were outstanding winners with Suffolks. A. J. Strachan of Carman, Man., and University of Manitoba also showed a few winners. Winners on Shropshires included B. R. Bennett of Deloraine, Man., and A. G. Dailey and Son of Brandon was in the running with Southdowns. Grenville and Trentham's ram was Grand Champion, and won the Don Head Challenge Trophy. They also took the coveted Freyseng Trophy for the best pen of four lambs.

Of special interest to sheepmen was the dog demonstration by Ashton Priestley, a shepherd dog expert from Derbyshire, England. According to Mr. Priestley, the main ingredient that goes into the successful training of dogs is patience. In daily performances before the crowds in the Horse Show arena, he and his six collies showed their skill at handling a small flock without fuss or alarm.

IN strong competition against breeders from eastern Canada and United States, herds from the West got a goodly share of the prize money. Shorthorn entries by T. G. Hamilton

of Innisfail, Emile Cammaert of Rockyford, and A. R. Cross of Midnapore, Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, Richardson Stock Farms of Winnipeg, Glen Powell of Grandview, R. A. Wilson of Pilot Mound, and A. C. Murray of Graysville, Manitoba, got into the prize circle. Alberta Herefords won creditable awards for Noble Bros., of Okotoks, Warren Smith of Olds, Watson Victor of Airdrie, A. Mixer of Calgary, J. A. Paul of Okotoks, Hunter Bros. of Fort Macleod, Butterfield Bros. of Ponoka, Mrs. Marion Larsen of Ponoka, Roy Vold of Ponoka and Merry Acres of Calgary. Lees Bros., of Arcola, Davis Bros., of Whitewood, Hockley Bros., of Yellow Grass, helped to look after Saskatchewan's interests, while Manitoba was represented by Treffry Bros. of Portage la Prairie, E. H. Batho of Oak Lake, Watson Dunn of Russell, A. J. Rankin of Killarney and J. C. Collins of Darlingford. British Columbia also sent fine entries from V. E. Ellison of Oyama, Earls-court Farms of Lytton and Fred E. Dey of Kamloops. Honors on Aberdeen-Angus were shared by Highland Stock Farms of Calgary, T. A. Leader of Red Deer and D. R. Buchanan of Pincher Creek in Alberta, and by Manitobans C. M. Partridge of Fort Garry, D. G. Hutchison of Virden, and A. B. Anderson of Swan River.

Western breeders did not do so well in the dairy breeds, but Rockwood Holsteins Ltd. of St. Norbert, Man., and Pickard and Clark of Carstairs, Alberta, won several prizes in Holsteins, the former taking two Challenge Trophies. In Red Polls, A. G. Howard of Crystal City, Man., had Reserve champion in the senior bull class and went on to hold Reserve in the Grand Championship. A. D. Pocock of Moose Jaw was Reserve in the junior bulls. In the female sections, J. F. Ransom of Tyvan, Sask., took both Reserve ribbons and also the Reserve Grand.

THAT the "Sale of the Stars" has become an outstanding event at The Royal is indicated in the fact that a seven-month Holstein bull brought \$20,100 at one of the several auctions. Rosafe Signet, owned by H. I. Astengo of Brampton, Ontario, carries the blood lines and individual qualities that attract the attention of experts to the extent that buyers from south of the line and from South America were eager to get him. So was J. J. E. McCague, the noted breeder of Alliston, Ontario. The others quit when the \$20,000 mark was passed. An offering of 31 head brought \$67,225—an average of \$2,168. Five bulls averaged \$5,720.

Prices obtained for the Stars in other dairy breeds, as well as for Shorthorns, Herefords and Angus, were not so spectacular, but quite satisfactory, in most cases. This also applied to beef breed sales, and the same can be said of the lamb and hog auctions in market classes. As far as live market hogs were concerned, most of the top honors went to Ontario breeders.

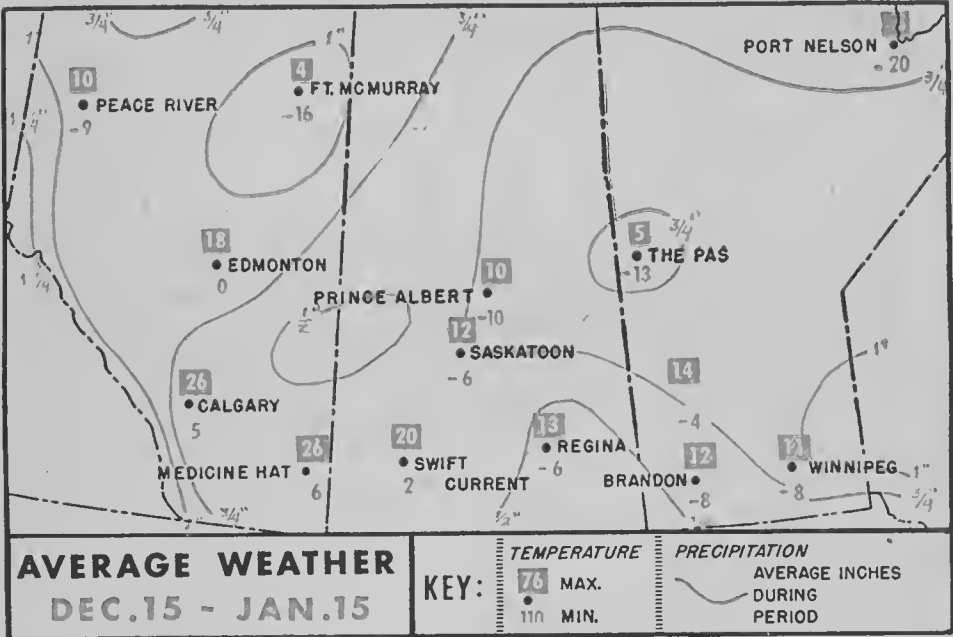


# Prairie Weather

Prepared by DR. IRVING P. KRICK and Staff  
for

THE *Country*  
GUIDE

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)



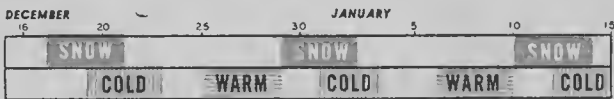
## Alberta

Temperatures will average below normal in Alberta from mid-December to mid-January. Three intervals of cold weather are anticipated, with the lowest temperatures prevailing during the early January and mid-January cold spells. Minimum readings are likely to be about 20 degrees below zero in the south and considerably lower in the north. Warmest conditions will occur around December 27 and again around January 8. As usual, little out-of-door farm activity can be expected.

Precipitation is expected to be somewhat short of normal during the latter half of December, becoming above normal during the first two weeks of January. Southern Alberta will experience the driest conditions in the province, and the winter injury to fall-sown grains and cover and forage crops is expected to be greater than usual.

Last year unseasonably warm weather persisted into early January, turning considerably colder thereafter. Precipitation was quite variable. ✓

PRECIPITATION  
**30 DAYS**  
ahead  
TEMPERATURE



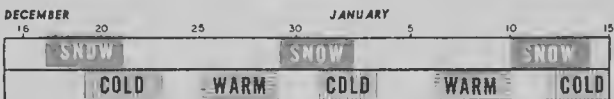
## Saskatchewan

Generally cold weather is in prospect for Saskatchewan from mid-December to mid-January, with temperatures averaging below the seasonal normal. Three important cold spells are anticipated, and sub-zero temperatures will be realized during each. Somewhat warmer weather will prevail for several days around December 27 and January 8, with maximum readings likely to be around 40 degrees in the south.

Precipitation totals, as compared with normal, will be deficient. Three periods favorable for snow and unsettled weather will occur, but snowfall amounts will be only light to moderate. Everything considered, above average access to the curling rinks is in prospect.

Last year precipitation during late December and the first half of January was above normal. Temperatures remained unseasonably warm until early January, when much colder than usual weather set in. ✓

PRECIPITATION  
**30 DAYS**  
ahead  
TEMPERATURE



## Manitoba

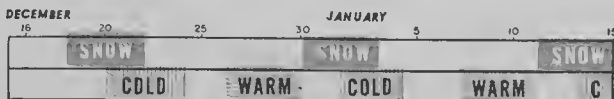
During the December 15 to January 15 period, Manitoba will experience temperatures ranging from one to three degrees below the historical average. Coldest weather will be associated with the January cold spells, although readings well below zero will accompany the December 20 to 24 cold interval.

Total precipitation will be below average in most of Manitoba, particularly during January, with best prospects for significant snowfall in the

south. Greatest amounts in the northern section of the province will probably materialize from the storm around December 20. Snow cover, for the most part, should be generally sufficient to protect fall rye from extreme cold and winter-injury.

Relatively mild and dry weather was characteristic of Manitoba in the latter half of December last year. The pattern changed abruptly in early January, however, bringing much colder and wetter than usual weather to the region. ✓

PRECIPITATION  
**30 DAYS**  
ahead  
TEMPERATURE



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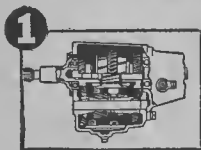
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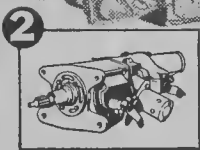
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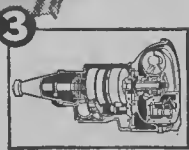
145 Horsepower  
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NEW HEAVY DUTY  
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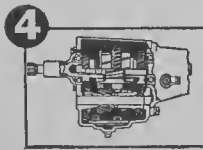
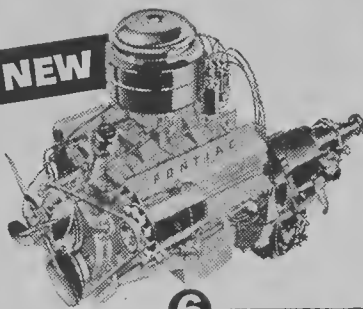
The "Big 6" power teams give you the best of two fields. You get penny-pinching economy from the all-new high compression, 6-cylinder engine, plus the "driving-ease" choice of three wonderful transmissions. With any of these thrilling combinations, you'll enjoy luxury car driving comfort on a budget.

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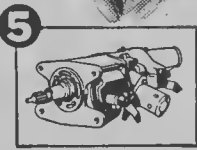
The tires are different! The chassis is different! The engines are different! The body, appointments, colors and styles are different! And when you learn how

**BRAND NEW**

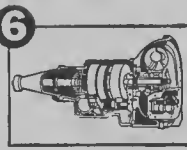
162 Horsepower **V-8**  
Valve-in-head  
*Strato-Flash*  
with choice of



NEW  
HEAVY DUTY  
SYNCHROMESH



NEW HEAVY DUTY  
TRANSMISSION WITH  
MULTI-RANGE OVERDRIVE



NEW  
'SUPER-SMOOTH'  
POWERGLIDE

#### Economy plus Superb High Compression Performance

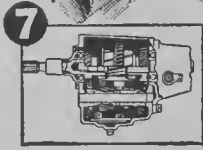
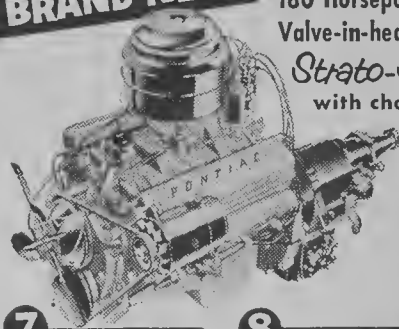
The 8-to-1 compression ratio of the all-new "Strato-Flash" engine offers money-saving economy, too. And the greatly increased horsepower, coupled with this unprecedented transmission choice, offers performance and ease that sets a new pace in low-cost car driving. Try any of these magnificent power teams at your Pontiac dealer's.

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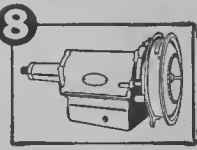
After you've seen it, you won't be satisfied until you try it on the road. And we're so delighted with this breath-taking car ourselves that we urge you to put it to the test. We are supremely confident that a demonstration drive will completely convince you that your best new car investment is Pontiac—the truly new car for 1955.

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*Never, no never  
before...a car so  
completely NEW  
from the ground up!*

**See the ALL-NEW '55 Pontiac at your local dealer's NOW**

A  
GENERAL MOTORS  
VALUE



*In the Swan River Valley in northwestern Manitoba farmers are plowing down a rank growth of green clover in the summerfallow year, filling the soil with nitrogen, and . . .*

## Pushing up GRAIN YIELDS

by  
RALPH  
HEDLIN



*Jerry Jersak, Minitonas, Manitoba, plows down six-foot clover to add nitrogen to his soil. Right: The wheat plant in Victor Lysak's right hand was grown on a green manured field, that in his left on black summerfallow.*



[Guide photos]

**"P**LOWING down fields of clover will really step up your grain yields in this country," Jerry Jersak, Minitonas, Manitoba, told *The Country Guide*.

"One year I summerfallowed two fields, one with grain stubble and the other with a heavy stand of clover," he went on. "The next year I grew just about twice as much fall rye on the clover field as I did on the other. I can usually figure on a ten- or fifteen-bushel increase," he said.

Jersak's neighbor, Angus Watson of Swan River, tells the same story. "I tried commercial fertilizer for some years," said Watson. "I found it pretty expensive. I plow down clover, now. I reckon it makes an easy difference of ten bushels an acre on wheat. More on barley."

The Lysaks—Martin, and his sons Victor, Mike and Alan—who farm several miles south of Swan River, tell the same story. "Big difference from clover," said Martin Lysak. "Seven, maybe ten bushels. This year even more. No sweet clover, maybe thirty bushels; clover, maybe forty. Ask Victor and Mike. They run the farm."

We asked Victor and Mike. "There have been times in the seven years since we started plowing down clover that we've doubled our yields," said Victor. "That isn't necessarily typical, but we've really pushed up our yields in some years, and we always raise it a lot."

**P**LOWING down clover is easier and less costly than you might think. It is not difficult to raise your own seed almost anywhere on the prairies. It doesn't take a lot of seed either: Jersak inoculates and scarifies the seed, and plants ten pounds to the acre: Lysaks seed about half this amount.

The procedure on most of the farms visited was to plant the clover with an oat crop, mature and harvest the crop and leave the clover the next year until it is in the early bloom stage and then plow it down.

Jerry Jersak's clover was over six feet high when he plowed it down this year. He would have plowed earlier, but for the wet weather. However, he used a four-bottom plow with a coulter in front of each bottom; plowed to a depth of five inches, pulling the outfit at four-and-a-half miles an

hour, and he got a complete cover. The land was level, as much of the Valley land is: on hilly land a good cover of tall clover would be difficult.

There is some difference of opinion as to the value to the soil of cutting clover for feed and plowing in the stubble. Jersak is of the opinion that it does nothing for his land. Angus Watson, who is one of the district pioneers of clover plowing, has not had the same experience. He originally started green manuring with clover because of the impact that clover stubble had on the next year's crop, but experience convinced him that the effect of plowing down the stubble did not last nearly as long as plowing down the growing crop.

**J**ERSAK uses an approximate rotation of rye, oats and summerfallow. Initially he seeded small fields to clover, but in 1954 he had 150 acres in clover on his three and one-half quarters. "Through the three-year rotation I'd like to get the whole farm down to clover," he said. "I don't see that I can afford not to," he added.

Jersak's estimate of what he can afford to do seems reasonably accurate. Apart from the increased fertility and yield there is some tendency for his land to blow. The clover residue holds it down. Across at Benito, Milton Erickson is telling the same story. "I've been plowing some clover down for several years now, and it sure does make a difference to my yields of grain," he told *The Guide*.

During the past summer Angus Watson, who has 230 acres broken on his three quarters, had 25 acres in wheat, 20 acres in barley, 105 acres in oats and 80 acres in clover. Of the clover he cut 30 acres for feed, plowed down 30 acres and saved 20 acres for seed. In other words, 200 acres out of his 230 produced usable or saleable crops.

"Regardless of what I do with the clover, it steps up the nitrogen and increases the yield of the next crop," he remarked. "There is a difference in favor of green clover plowed down, but that cut for hay or left for seed helps too," he added. He conceded that, in a dry year, fields might be cut due to loss of moisture when the clover was left to mature a seed crop.

Watson, who has been growing clover for 15 or 16 years, runs 25 to 30 head of cattle, and finds that

the rotation of crops fits in well with his cattle project. He has been milking six to eight cows, but he recently bought a milking machine and now plans to step up the milking herd, so the clover acreage may also tend upward. The cattle are a mixture of Short-horn and Holstein breeding, a beef and milk arrangement that suits the Watsons well, and that can utilize many loads of clover.

Neighboring farmer and relative, Stewart Watson, is also growing clover, though his one-cow herd eats a very limited amount of the clover grown. However, Stewart Watson, who has always put in a lot of commercial fertilizer, likes the economy of the clover crop.

"We like this system much better than the straight black summerfallow," commented Angus. "Black summerfallow seems to take a lot out of the land, especially fibre, while the clover builds up the fertility and puts fibre into the soil."

Bill McMillan, also of Swan River, must agree. He is reported by Angus to be working down clover on a larger scale than anyone else in the district, and has been doing it for a long time. "More and more people in the Valley are working down clover," said Angus Watson. "It seems to be of particular help, where land is a bit light," he added.

**A**FTER leaving the Watson place it was a drive of several miles to the south to have another talk with the Lysaks. Victor Lysak had graduated from the School of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba a year or two before, and had brought back to the farm with him most of the awards and prizes offered by the School. He and his brother Mike had been farming in a sort of partnership for quite a few years. Here was a place to get some questions answered.

For example, what about moisture for growing the crop, after the clover had pulled out a lot of moisture on the summerfallow year? Also, didn't weeds get worse

(Please turn to page 30)



These trees are coming from a 30,000-acre Christmas tree farm, Edgewater, B.C., owned by G. R. Kirk Co.

# Christmas Tree Farms

*Canada's Christmas tree business amounts to millions of dollars annually, and British Columbia's share is growing*

by DON MEADE

**T**HERE are many kinds of farming, but one of the most pleasant,—to think about, at least—, is Christmas tree farming. It seems to have something of the spirit of Christmas about it, including good cheer, good will, and pleasant surroundings.

Many people, no doubt, have wondered where all of the Christmas trees come from, and many, too, will be surprised to learn that though many Christmas trees are cut from wooded lands, not far from some of our towns and cities, millions are grown as a regular farm crop. In some places they are produced by planting seedling evergreens in suitable locations, and generally on land that is quite inexpensive and would not produce much of a crop of anything else except at great expense.

Some romantic interest is also added to the business of Christmas tree farming, by the fact that some of these Canadian Christmas trees will be shipped as far south as Hawaii. Children there have never seen snow, but with the aid of Christmas trees grown in Canada, some added pleasure will come to them for the Christmas season. Millions of other trees cross the line to the United States every year—about seven out of each ten Christmas trees cut in Canada. Last year nearly 1,700 carloads went from Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In all, Canada supplies about 25 per cent of the Christmas trees used in the United States.

Most types of soil will grow evergreens and the principal requirement for Christmas tree farming is waste land that will produce them. If there is already a stand of evergreens on such land, they can be managed so that Christmas trees can be cut from them for an almost indefinite period.

Of course, as in other types of farming, there's a knack to it. The trees must be cut from the stump

so that more trees grow into suitable Christmas stock. Trimmers stagger suckers on the stump so that each tree will grow fully rounded. When properly pruned, evergreens will grow about four feet in five years. In this way, depending of course on the number of stumps, Christmas tree farmers have taken as many as 2,500 trees from a single acre in one season.

Big tree farmers like the G. R. Kirk and Hofert companies, have planted Douglas Fir seedlings on their Washington tree farms. This enables them to stump-farm formerly treeless land. In eastern and western Canada and in the state of Washington, they farm thousands of acres. Since they started in the Windermere Valley, British Columbia, dozens of local farmers have become Christmas tree conscious, and each year sell all the trees they can produce.

**T**HIS year, Windermere Valley farmers will ship about 200 carloads of Christmas trees. Each car averages about 5,000 small trees. Based on the price of \$1.00 per bale, they will receive about \$125,000. This is in strong contrast to the price of 17 cents a bale paid during depression years. Depending on the size of tree, each bale contains from one to eight trees.

Trees sold on the stump go through a definite process before they go into the railroad car. First, cutters bring ordinary buck-saws and axes, to do the job. Next comes the inspector, who trims the trees to specification. Sorters cull them for size. Taggers do the most interesting job. Loaded with tags that come in all the colors of the rainbow, they tag the trees for size. Like jockeys on the race track, shippers have their own colors. For instance, one shipper uses white for large trees, red for small. Another tags large ones with orange and small ones with blue.

After the tagging, balers get five cents a bale to tie the trees with special imported binder twine. Next, trucks haul the bales to a railroad boxcar.

During World War II, when boxcars could not be provided, Christmas tree shippers lost thousands of dollars through pilfering, because they had to ship trees in open cars. At many towns when an open car of Christmas trees rolled in, people climbed aboard and got one or two for free. Losses from boxcars are negligible.

Trees range in size from three to 16 feet. Before cutting begins, frost must be heavy enough to send the sap to the stump. Trees then arrive at their destination in good shape and remain green longer. Shippers try to deliver trees that will retain their needles for long periods.

Douglas Fir is the most popular tree grown in the Windermere Valley and Washington state. In the Maritimes, Balsam Fir is cultivated. From the 20 different varieties of evergreens used for Christmas trees, the United States imports about ten million yearly from Canadian farmers. The traffic still grows.

Another branch of Christmas tree farming that is growing in Canada is the cultivation of evergreen tips. These are shipped to greenhouses for wreaths the year around. Estimates show that over 5,000 bushels of cones are yearly used for door charms and other decorations at Christmas time.

**B**ECAUSE of the short season, Christmas tree harvesting is a fast and furious business. Trees must reach their destination on time, or many kiddies will be disappointed and the shippers will lose thousands of dollars. After the first good frost in October, cutting continues until about December 15.

Most large Christmas tree orders come from wholesale food companies that ship carloads to their city markets. Some Christmas tree retailers decorate trees with luminous paint, but most people prefer trees in natural color, needles firm, and with a pungent, evergreen odor.

The exact time when Christmas trees came into vogue is not known but, the idea is popularly credited to the Germans in the sixteenth century. At any rate, there are few countries in the world



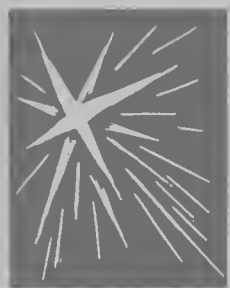
Shipping Canada's Christmas tree crop means filling many railroad cars for each million trees sold.

today that do not enjoy evergreens at Christmas time.

Christmas tree farming is a simple business. It requires a minimum of attention and outside of the rush during cutting season, it takes less time than any other farm crop. All you need is that piece of waste land. If no evergreens grow there, the soil may be suitable for seedlings. At any rate, money could be made from land that would otherwise be an eyesore, and at the same time, a few more children could be made happy during our best loved holiday season, Christmas. V



# THE EVENING STAR



**L**ESIA stood in the big, square kitchen, the setting sun sending a rosy mist over the snow and through the windowpanes, framed with frilly, white curtains.

Stefka and Peter were leaning over the red geraniums, their noses eagerly pressed against the pane watching for the first glimpse of the Evening Star, which would herald the eve of their Ukrainian Christmas.

Lesia turned her glance from her small sister and brother, dressed in their national costume, and felt a sense of unreality sweep over her. It was an eerie feeling, as if she were two people.

The tall girl with golden hair caught in a cluster of curls at the nape of her neck, and crowned with a wreath of gay flowers and ribbon streamers, her slim body clothed in a colorful Ukrainian dress was not the real Lesia. No, she had denied that part of herself. She was Lesia Love, clever designer of shoes that had swept the eastern cities and brought her fame and money.

She was Lesia Love who wore clothes as original as the shoes she designed; a Lesia who dined in smart Montreal restaurants, went to the latest plays and was conditionally engaged to Lawrie Bannon, the owner of a chain of shoe stores. Even now she should be dining with Lawrie while soft music played and silver and crystal gleamed under dim table lights.

Instead she had been writing him daily notes and yesterday she had sent him a telegram: *Delayed. Will wire when I can return. All my love. Signed Lesia Love.*

**W**HAT if she had forgotten and signed it Lesia Lovenko? The thought brought a fluttering feeling. Another thought brought a flush to her cheeks. She had sent her love even though she had not really promised to marry him, and she had never yet said to him, "I love you." Preparing the traditional Christmas foods for her family and Fedor, she had felt a growing fear that she might never say it—as she had never told him her real name.

Her dark blue eyes were troubled and there was a tension in her face, that high cheek bones and a golden widow-peak gave a heart-shaped look. Now she glanced about the room of her childhood. The old clock, brought from the Ukraine by her parents, hung on the west wall; a dish of candy and nuts stood on a scrubbed board table; strong wooden chairs, a large range covered with pots of simmering food, a couch, and homemade cupboard holding brightly patterned dishes were all familiar. The only new thing was the electric refrigerator which she had sent home. The pictures on the wall were the same, even the framed one of the Easter egg painting. She had

*There seemed to be two Lesias—one the girl who had made a place and name for herself in the fashion world—the other who belonged to her family, honoring old customs of expressing love and giving in the Christmas season*

by OLIVE KNOX

designed them herself using vivid colors to serve as models for the eggs she had sold to pay for paints and brushes at Art School.

As she waited for the twins to see the Evening Star, she felt her Lesia Love personality fading. Let it go! She would see that this was a happy Christmas for the ten-year-old twins, then she would return to Lawrie.

Vaguely she heard Mrs. Novak talking to her mother in the bedroom, and her mind reached back to the day that had given birth to a pain which had not left her for 12 years. She

was 15 again and she had run all the way home from school. Tom Smith, the English boy, whom she adored because he had never made fun of her parents' broken English, or the way they dressed, had asked her to go skating.

"I can't," she said. "This is our Christmas Eve."

"Why don't you Bohunks have your Christmas the same day we do?" he had said crossly.

She hated him for calling her people "Bohunks" and had wept. She refused to eat the Christmas feast, or to go to

midnight mass or sing carols in the street.

"I won't! I won't! She cried, pounding her fist on the table when her brother Joseph, and Fedor, the orphan boy whom her parents had raised like a son, had tried to coax her. "The other children make fun of our Christmas."

"Don't be silly," Joseph had said. "Be glad you can celebrate two Christmases."

"I'm not glad," she cried. "I won't go."

"Not even to hear me sing at the church tonight, luba?" asked Fedor.

His word of endearment made her cry harder. She was so proud of his silver-toned voice. "I can't . . . I can't," she wailed.

They left her alone and she cried herself to sleep. The next Christmas she wept unconsolably too, for Joseph (Please turn to page 30)



*Lesia was roused from her reverie by a cry from the twins. "It's here! It's here! The Evening Star!"*

Illustrated by Kamienska

# Belgian Farm

*Higher costs and lower prices squeeze net income for this small farmer in Belgium*

by PETER HENDRY



*At the entrance of this Belgian farm are Frans Vermoesen, owner, his wife, mother, and his three children, Ludgard, Josef and Karel.*



*Frans Vermoesen's harvest was held up by weather, but author Hendry caught this picture a little later, on another Belgian farm.*



*One of three Landrace sows, with her healthy litter, kept on this 40-acre farm. The pigs thrive best with outdoor exercise and pasture.*



*The farm supports a herd of 12 dual-purpose Normandy cows averaging 12,000 pounds of milk, which is delivered to a co-operative.*

**I**N August, 1954, you could stand in Frans Vermoesen's pasturefield at Vilvoorde, 25 miles outside Brussels, Belgium, and find it difficult to imagine the battle that waged there just ten years earlier.

Mr. Vermoesen's 12 milk cows were grazing nonchalantly on a strip of grassland that had been fenced off for the week. His binder was sitting three rounds into the wheatfield, awaiting drier weather; and as one walked down the lane to the buildings, some half-grown Landrace pigs were to be seen rooting in a pasture nearer the buildings.

At the end of the lane, however, there was an abrupt reminder that the Vermoesen farm has not always been a peaceful pastoral landscape. At one side stands a modern, comfortable farm home, and a trim dairy leading into a new stable, while the foundation for a new silo is going up.

Across the lane is a pile of weed-grown brick rubble that was the family home before it was shelled out as the Germans retreated in 1944.

The story of the Vermoesen farm in the last ten years is a story of reconstruction. The Belgian government, through the war indemnities it has received, has been able to assist farmers whose property was damaged by war, but the heavy burden of responsibility for keeping farm operations in the black still rests with the individual farmer. With the average Belgian farm holding usually little more than 25 acres, it requires brain work as well as much back work to bring out a favorable balance at the end of the year.

Frans Vermoesen makes a living for himself, his mother, his wife and three children from 17 hectares,—roughly about 42 acres. To do it, he has built up a balanced farm operation that keeps every acre producing every year, either cash or fodder crops. Frans is the true mixed farmer. His cash income comes from milk, beef, pork, wheat, rye and a rather obscure product—chicory—used as a coffee blend.

This diversification has saved him from the disaster of a failure in any one crop, but Frans admits that he still operates on a very narrow margin. He thinks now, however, that he has found one answer to the squeeze on his profits. Through the well-organized extension service of the Belgian department of agriculture he has obtained advice on the keeping of proper farm records; and for the past three years, every franc of production cost, as well as of farm income, goes down in a simple but neat set of books stored on the kitchen shelf.

This way, Frans has been able to arrive at a number of conclusions. He has rated the various branches of the farm operation in order of importance, as far as income is concerned.

**T**HE meal ticket for the Vermoesens is supplied by a herd of dual-purpose Normandy cattle. It was one

of the puzzles of our visit to Northern France and the Lowlands that this black and white, deep-bodied Normandy breed have not spread farther afield as the ideal dual-purpose breed.

Last summer, Frans Vermoesen had a milking herd of 12 cows and was figuring on an average milk production of nearly 5,500 kilograms (12,237 pounds) per cow annually. It was his proudest boast that milk production per cow had been boosted by roughly 800 kilograms (1,750 pounds) over the past three years.

Frans gave the credit for the improvement to the culling job he had been able to carry out since record keeping entered the farm picture. There are no "boarders" in the Vermoesen herd now.

Another factor that he believes has helped his herd give a good production record is three-times-a-day milking. Frans admitted that if he was not operating a family farm, the extra labor might more than offset the added production, but with three youngsters at the eager-to-help age, the noon-day milking doesn't pose the labor problem it otherwise would.

More than any other so-called dual-purpose breed,—and there are any number of such in Europe,—the Normandy impressed us as being capable of turning out a good beef product, as well as a competitive milk production record.

Young stock designated for beef on the Vermoesen farm is sold either at the yearling stage, or, depending on market prices, held an extra year. Weights of 1,200 to 1,400 pounds are not uncommon for well-fitted two-year-old Normandy steers.

**E**VERY farm product in Belgium, incidentally, is still on a free market, and the only form of control exerted by the government is legislation which regulates the percentage of imported hard wheat that may be blended with domestic wheat for milling purposes. Thus, if bumper yields appear to threaten domestic wheat prices, the percentage of foreign wheat which may be used in milling is cut accordingly. It is a system which appears to work to the satisfaction of most Belgian grain growers.

Next to milk and beef production, the most important contribution to the farm coffer is made by the swine herd. Mr. Vermoesen is at present keeping three good Landrace brood sows and with the Landrace reputation for large, healthy broods, there are usually at least 30 young pigs on the farm.

Last August a neat new pighouse had just been completed, but Frans utilizes the small pasture behind the buildings for the pigs, and finds that young pigs are generally healthier with the additional outdoor exercise.

Finding enough pasture for the livestock, without encroaching on the acreage, that must, for economic reasons, remain in cash cereal crops, is one of the major problems of the

*(Please turn to page 25)*



# Glad Christmas Morning

Picture story by ERIC WAHLEEN

THE twins, Diane and Dolores, are three years old, and are therefore on the threshold of wonder . . . Their Christmas Day opens on that note, but it soon gives way to curiosity, which reaches certain peaks of course, when the interest of both centers on the same present at the same time. Daddy, however, is not far away and can demonstrate the importance of ethics, even if the end result is that a child convinced against her will is of the same opinion still . . . Just why Daddy's face should make such a satisfactory substitute for Trans-Canada Highway No. 1 has never been clearly established, but at certain ages it undoubtedly does, although Mummy's would do equally well if she were there and would consent to be a highway . . . Anyway, the time comes all too soon when the little engines won't run any longer. Perhaps if they are allowed to go to sleep by the Christmas tree and wake up in bed next morning—everything will be as it should be.



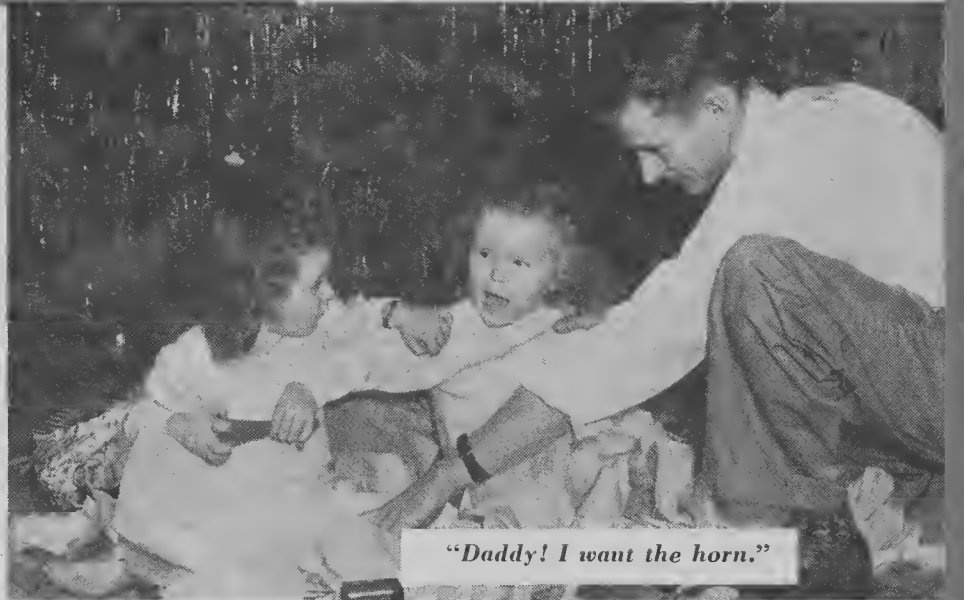
"Oooh, look! Could we go in?"



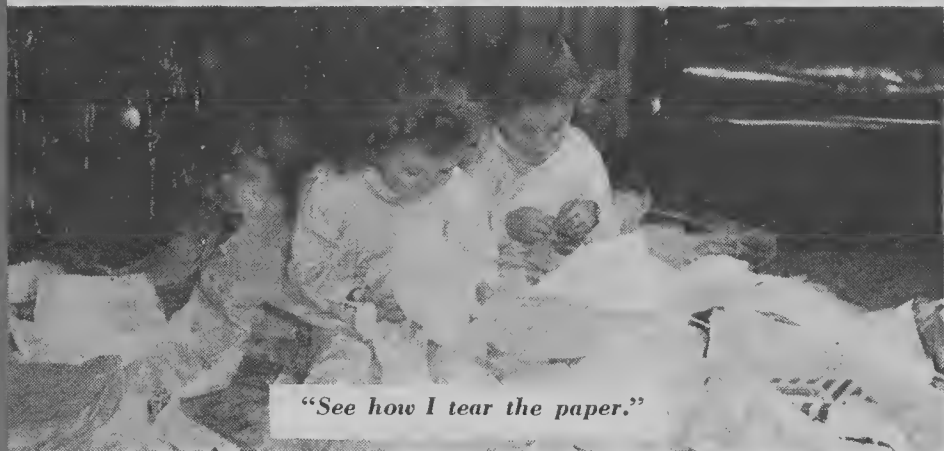
"Lookit the pretty paper."



"Wonder what's in here?"



"Daddy! I want the horn."



"See how I tear the paper."



"See the car go down the hill."



"Who said we're sleepy?"



"Oh, well! Goodnight all!"





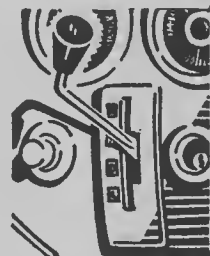
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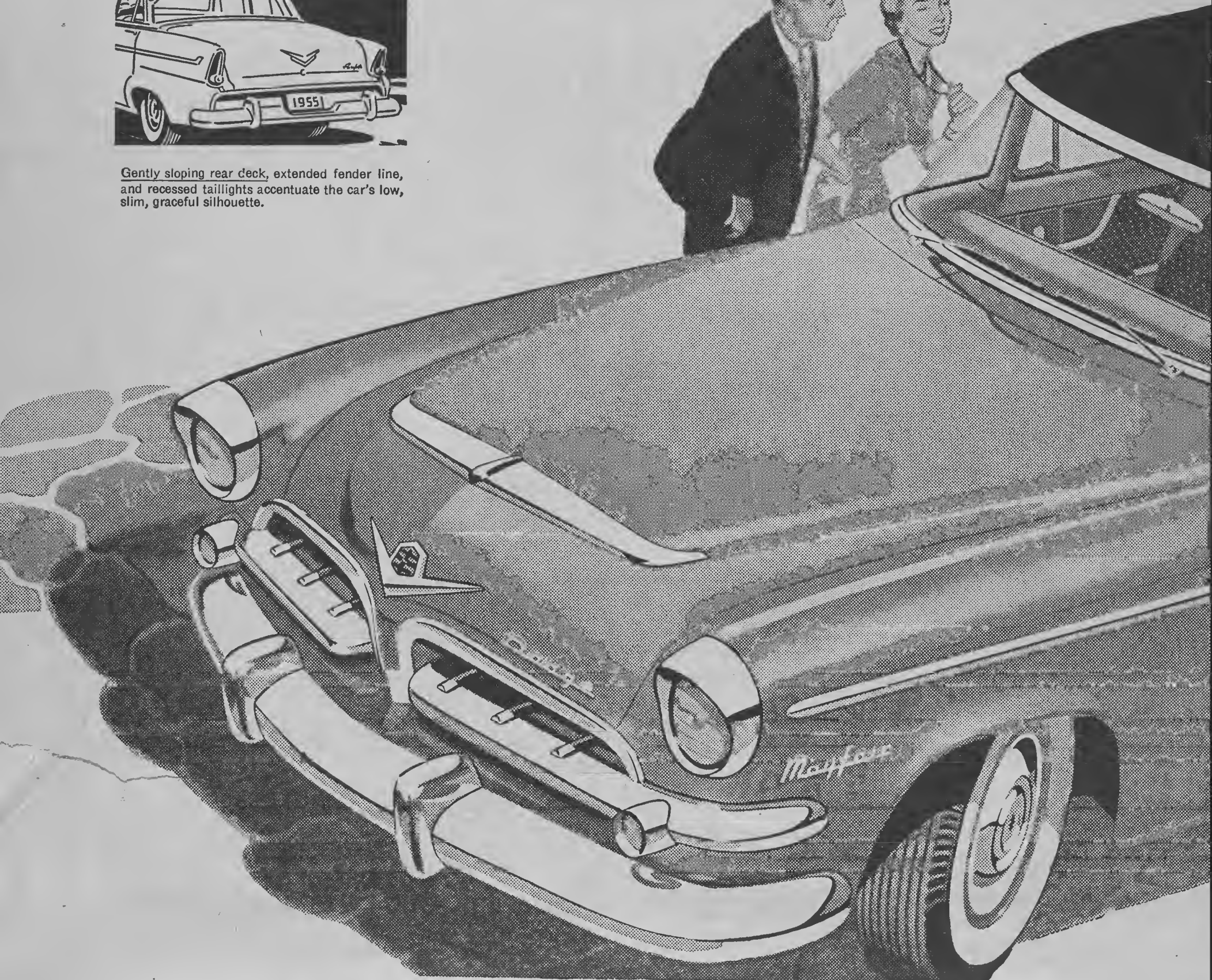
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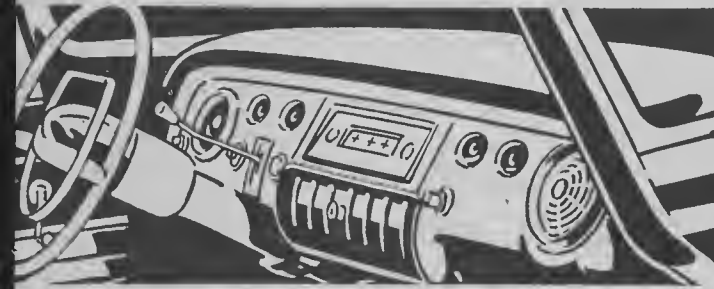
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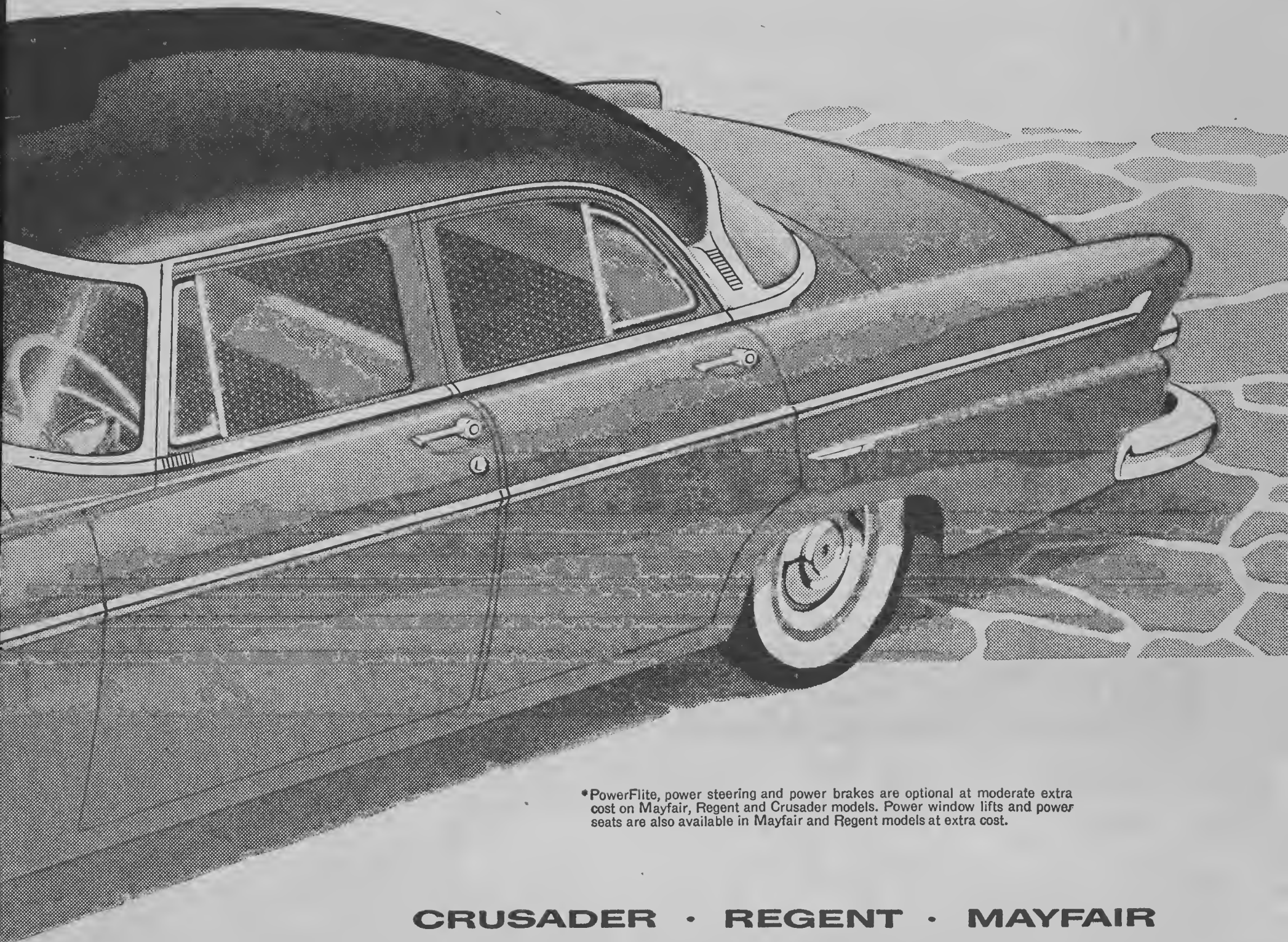
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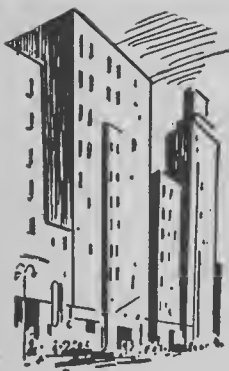
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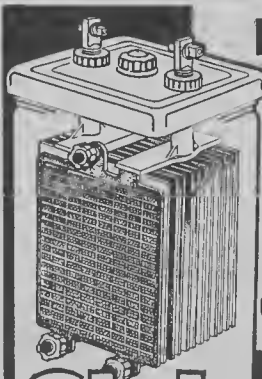
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## Under the Peace Tower

by HUGH BOYD

OTTAWA is the capital of Canada, but it is also the site of a municipal government that gives rise to more local agitation, much of the time, than does its opposite number in the national field. And it is certain that the civic election of 1954 has given rise to sharper partisanship than does the average federal campaign.

After all, Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Drew, Mr. Coldwell and Mr. Low merely have residences in Ottawa; they don't (with the partial exception of Mr. Drew whose seat is part rural and part suburban) offer themselves as candidates here.

Nor, in the provincial field, is there any extraordinary attraction, notwithstanding the presence of one cabinet minister.

Municipally, it's very different. The municipal election of 1954, like those of 1952 and 1950, involves one of the most colorful and disputatious figures in Canadian politics, at any level.

Vancouver has had its Gerry McGeer, Winnipeg its Ralph Webb, and Montreal its Camilien Houde; but it is to be doubted whether any of them has had as much impact on local affairs as that product of the Ottawa Valley known as Charlotte Whitton. She has the right to be known as Dr. Whitton, but the description somehow seems inadequate in the case of this often violently assertive personality.

MISS WHITTON was elected to Ottawa's Board of Control in the fall of 1950, ahead of all rivals, and less than a year later was named to the chief magistrate's chair upon the sudden death of Mayor Goodwin. The succession in itself was controversial, but Charlotte Whitton carried on, and won the approval of a large number of citizens, who felt that she was a commanding personage and had "stirred things up." The last phrase is accurate enough. For many years Ottawa had been served by honest, but pedestrian, municipal regimes, and Charlotte's arrival brought an electrifying change. There's been nothing at all pedestrian about Ottawa municipal politics in the last four years.

Whether administration has improved is a matter of opinion. Recent years have been marked by so many temperamental explosions that they have become the normal rather than the exception. That is to say, the Mayor likes to have her way, and does not much care for opposition. As a general rule, any opponents have been cowed in short order. This may reflect either the dominating personality of the chief magistrate, or the lack of strength of her colleagues.

Ottawa has benefited from increasing grants. Yet the city, apart from the splendid landscaped driveways built by the Federal District Commission, still exhibits its descent from old Bytown. The main streets are narrow, and streetcars fight for possession of them with a horde of private vehicles. Council has refused a prohibition of parking in these main streets, although the slow strangulation of business is



already apparent and the efficiency of public transport is probably cut in half on account of traffic jams.

The town also lacks a city hall, is afflicted by potholes in the streets every spring, has a housing problem, and a school problem (not to exhaust the list). It no doubt requires more aid, from the provincial government in particular, yet the spirit of self-help is not robust.

FOR the deficiencies, a council of 18 members (it was 28 until 1950) plus an elected Board of Control of five, including the mayor, must take much responsibility.

One difficulty in Ottawa's civic affairs is that the largest segment of the population, the federal civil service, is virtually unrepresented. This may be the fault of the government, which hasn't exactly encouraged participation in municipal affairs on the part of its employees.

There has been a change, however, in the 1954 civic elections. One of those who dared to oppose Mayor Whitton is an administrative officer of the department of agriculture, David Burgess, who was once secretary to a Conservative minister, Robert Weir, and a Conservative candidate in Prince Albert.

But Miss Whitton has been able to appeal to agricultural elements in this campaign also. While she was hostess to the Queen Mother she took pains to insert a description of her costume at a formal dinner, which concluded with the following: "With her gown she wore a pearl necklace and earrings, and carried a golden-toned bag. Her pearls were a gift of the Plowmen of Carleton County."

Contrasted with the sartorial notes provided by run-of-the-mine socialites, this could have some pulling power in the matter of votes. (You will know by the time this piece is in print.) V



"I think I'd better hang up now, Ethel. Fred's getting a little impatient for his supper."



## NEWS OF AGRICULTURE



A Calgary drilling company probing for oil on the Young farm near Griswold, Manitoba.

[Guide photo]

## Honors and Appointments

*Agricultural leaders win honors in their respective fields*

O. S. Longman, deputy minister of Agriculture for Alberta, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at the Fall Convocation of the University of Alberta, October 30. A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Dr. Longman received the M.B.E. for outstanding efforts in furthering Canadian agricultural production in World War II.

Drs. John Mitchell and J. B. Harrington, respective heads of the Soil Science and Field Husbandry departments of the University of Saskatchewan, have been elected fellows of the American Society of Agronomy. Only one other Canadian has received this honor to date.

Clifford H. Whiting of Pleasant Valley, Saskatchewan, has been named a member of the Saskatchewan Marketing Board. A well-known hog pro-

ducer, Mr. Whiting has been a Wheat Pool delegate for several years, and in 1953 was appointed to the Board of Governors of the University of Saskatchewan.

Walter T. Burns has been appointed superintendent of the Prince George Experimental Station, succeeding Frank V. Hutton who is now retiring after 34 years' service. Mr. Burns was formerly superintendent of the Experimental Substation, Smithers, B.C.

Winner of the 1954 T. Eaton Company Canadian agricultural scholarship was Wyndam Ross Rowat, 18-year-old junior farmer from Elmvale, Ontario. The award provides for all college fees, lodging, and board for a four-year course in agriculture.

### Mechanical Corn Pickers

TWO Ontario farmers, William Frank of Hyde Park, and Jack Shipley of Wallacetown, made a good showing at the first international mechanical corn picking contest, held recently at Janesville, Wisconsin. Competing against winners from ten corn-growing U.S. states, Frank placed third in the two-row division, and Shipley fifth in the one-row class.

### U.S. Tree Farms Increase

TREE farming is bringing increasing profits to the 4,250,000 small woodlot owners in the United States. Started 13 years ago in Washington State, the American Tree Farm System has now spread to 36 sister states. Midyear figures place the tree farm acreage at 31,051,503.

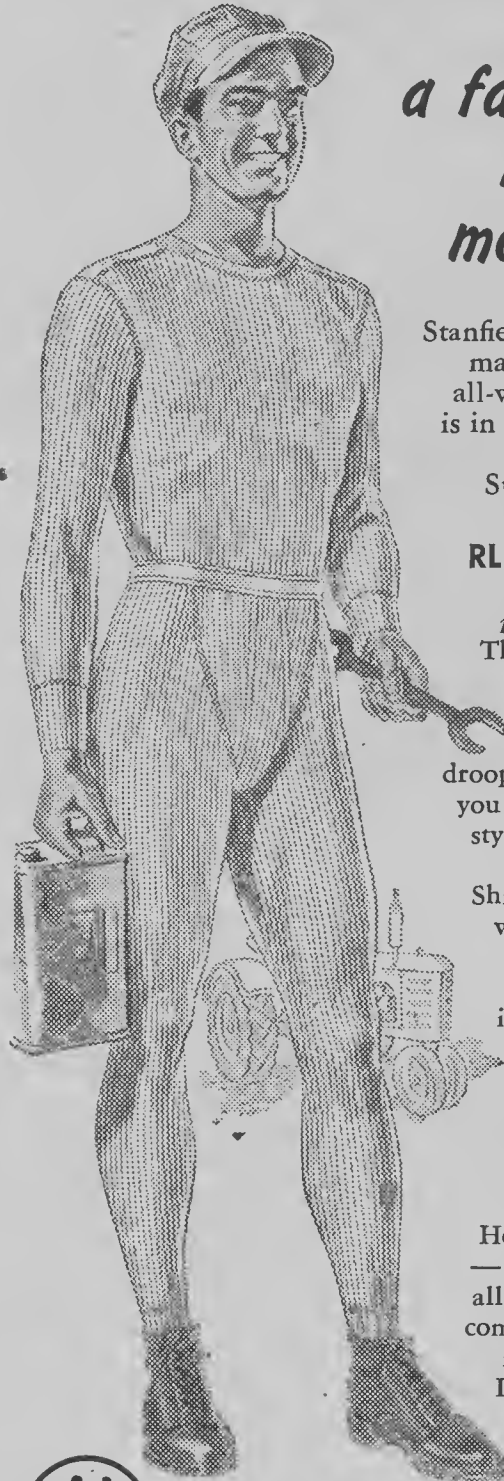


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## Get It At a Glance

*News items from the agricultural scene at home and abroad of interest to Canadian farmers*

Canadians spent \$3,755,000,000 for food in 1953, a slight increase over the total for 1952. In spite of heavy dairy surpluses, this country ranked only fifth in the world as a consumer of milk and milk products. ✓

Next year's Philippine rice crop is expected to be down from 20 to 30 per cent because of severe droughts this season. In Japan, rice crop prospects are poor for the second consecutive year. ✓

The 1954 Durum wheat crop in Canada is the smallest since 1945. Current estimates place the crop at seven million bushels, 19 per cent below the figure for last year. ✓

A guaranteed corn price has been promised to Venezuelan farmers. Depending on quality, they will get the equivalent of from \$1.90 to \$3.03 (U.S.) per bushel. ✓

A helping hand has been extended to a newly established co-operative farm in the northeastern sector of India by co-operative and farm groups of Manitoba. Through their Co-operative Action with Asia project, which was started in the spring of 1953, the Manitoba group has achieved an objective of \$5,000 to send a tractor, complete with modern tillage equipment to the Panchamahala Co-op farm in Angul, Orissa, India. ✓

Chile produces 15 million pounds of butter per year, about three million pounds short of her home requirements. The deficit is made up by imports from Argentina, at an equivalent of 82 (U.S.) cents per pound. ✓

The number of farm workers now employed in the United States is 9,666,000, about two per cent less than the number working last year. ✓

Increased egg production is the aim of the Mexican government to save dollars now spent on imports, which last year reached a total of 18 million dozen eggs. ✓

Complete self-sufficiency in food within the next few years is forecast for Mexico by the country's president, Ruiz Cortines. Sixty-five per cent of her 29 million people live and work on the land. ✓

Rural electrification in the United States has increased 1.5 per cent in the past year, which means that 92.3 per cent of American farms now have the benefit of electricity. ✓

The first person to make bread from wheat was a Chinese named Ching-nung, who is said to have lived about 2000 B.C. ✓

Russian wheat is finding a ready market in Brazil. The South American country recently purchased 70,000 tons. ✓

Ninety per cent of the total dried whole eggs imported by the United States during 1953 came from Sweden. This year's shipments are running about 50 per cent above those of last year. ✓

Milk vending machines are slowly gaining popularity in Canada. A machine recently installed at an Edmonton high school is adaptable to any size container, sells two products at two different prices, and gives change for odd-cent prices. More than 100 half-pints sold during the first day of operation. ✓

Israel has harvested its first commercial cotton crop. Altogether about 500 bales were produced from 740 acres, representing 2.4 per cent of the country's domestic needs. ✓

About 40 per cent of agricultural land in Hungary is said to be devoted to collective farms. At the end of World War II, about five million acres out of a total cultivated area of 8.5 million acres were distributed to 642,000 families. Co-operative and state farms today are said to cover 3,385,000 acres farmed by 340,000 farm families. ✓

The Japanese apple crop now amounts to a record 15,000,000 bushels per year. New technical methods introduced during the American occupation are credited with the production increase. ✓

Grain production in Spain this year is estimated at 165 million to 180 million bushels, the greatest since the Spanish Civil War. Heavier production, and large stocks on hand indicate that import needs will be small. ✓

Japanese farmers will get a guaranteed wheat price of the equivalent of \$2.61 (U.S.) in 1954-55. In Turkey, the set price to farmers will be the equivalent of \$3.21 (U.S.) for top-grade wheat. ✓

A record level of wool production is forecast for Australia. The 1954-55 crop is expected to total about 1,282 million pounds. ✓

Farm marketing, purchasing and business service co-operatives in the U.S. borrowed \$506 million from the 13 banks for co-operatives during the year ending June 30, 1953, or about 5.8 per cent less than the previous year. ✓

The dangers of biological warfare have been detailed in a booklet written for farmers by the U.S. Civil Defence Administration. Instructions are given on how to deal with enemy agents and airplanes dropping destructive chemicals. ✓

The world surplus of food is not likely to increase very much this year, says Dr. P. V. Cardon, Director-General of FAO. ✓

The Island of Jersey in the Channel Islands comprises only 28,000 acres. Of this amount, 19,000 are cultivated and plowed and 6,000 under grass. The island is famous for its Jersey cattle, of which the pedigrees can be traced back for about 80 years. In one recent year, the island exported 116 bulls, 291 cows, 126 calves, and 664 heifers. ✓



## LIVESTOCK



[Guide photo

Milton Erickson's conventional-type barn on his farm at Benito, Manitoba.

## He Wanted His Stock Indoors

*As the days grow shorter and colder, Milton Erickson appreciates the two-storey barn he built last summer*

MILTON ERICKSON, who farms in the Benito district of north-western Manitoba, is choring inside this winter. He had a small, frame barn for his 30-head herd of Short-horns, but last summer he and hired man Mike Zachary and district carpenter Mel Lee built something bigger and better.

He ran the stock outside last winter. "I figure it took more feed, and I can't look after them as well outside as I can inside," said Erickson. "They're more comfortable, too."

The barn should keep the stock comfortable enough. It has a double wall with building paper between the two layers of lumber on the lower storey. It is made rainproof with tarred and tacked rolled roofing; the stock are tied in stanchions or run in small loose boxes.

"It should cut down the work load in the winter and should be con-

venient and pleasant to work in." Erickson told The Country Guide at the time when the barn was still being built. "No," he continued, "I wouldn't prefer to have it without stalls or partitions. Lots of farmers prefer to run their stock in loose housing or outside, but this suits me."

The new two-storey barn is 32 feet by 50 feet and 28 feet high. Erickson's present plan is to build a chop bin beside it for convenient grain feeding. A pig pen will, in the future, be built next to the chop bin, so he can feed chop into the barn or over the fence into the pig pen. "I've been raising 15 to 20 pigs a year, but I figure to push it up to 25 to 30 a year. I'll likely keep three sows and take a litter from each," he said.

"The stock got wild and hard to control when I ran them outside. They should be better when they are inside," he concluded.—R.H. ✓

reported to produce finer wool and more mutton. Some of the wool crop from Iceland is exported to the United Kingdom.

Vegetation for summer pasture in the northern regions of Canada has been found only in small patches. However, field crops and soil experts believe a hardy type of grass for winter feeding might be raised. ✓

### Making Money With Winter Milk

THE period when dairy cows have been taken off pasture and are not yet on full winter feed can be one in which the milk producer finds himself caught in a cost squeeze. Milk production frequently drops, with the result that full milk quotas cannot be met; in an attempt to hold up production a heavy program of grain feeding is frequently resorted to, and this may mean that the extra milk produced costs more than it is worth.

The Dairy Branch of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture points out

that the first instinct is to save on the feed bill, and this may or may not be economical. If it takes the form of a more economical use of feedstuffs, without damaging the nutritional standard of the ration, it may well improve the situation; if, instead, it takes the form of cutting down feedstuffs specially designed for milk production and replacing them with farm-grown bulky feeds, it may serve only to increase the total losses.

The Branch suggests that economies can be effected in several ways without reducing nutritional standards; these include feeding high quality hay or silage, and so ensuring that the cow does not use part of her expensive production ration for body maintenance. They suggest grain should not be wasted on low yielders or stale milkers, and that grain should be fed exactly according to the milk produced by the animal. Improper milking methods can mean that all the milk produced is not "let down," and is finally re-absorbed by the cow.

Very good milkers should receive one pound of good quality grain ration for each three and a half or four pounds of milk produced; good milkers should get one pound of grain to five pounds of milk, and average milkers one pound to six or more pounds of milk.

A cow costs approximately \$150 a year in fixed costs and overhead. She must produce 225 pounds of butterfat to pay fixed and grain costs. With a Manitoba average of 280 pounds, dairymen are getting about \$57 a cow for their labor. If raised to 350 pounds—a fully possible figure—a disproportionately larger net return would be realized. ✓

### Oat Hay Can Cut The Lamb Crop

EXCESSIVE feeding of oat hay during the winter may lead to a disappointing lamb crop in the spring, says Dr. J. E. Bowstead, associate professor of animal science at the University of Alberta. The danger can be overcome by the addition of suitable supplements.

Oat hay is deficient in iodine. When fed oat hay ewes at the University of Alberta produced lambs, up to 80 per cent of which were suffering from goitre. Soft, weak, and dead lambs were common, and many lambs born alive failed to live long enough to reach market.

In addition to being deficient in iodine, oat hay is deficient in calcium, and quite low in cobalt. The addition of calcium had the effect of increasing the weight of lambs at birth, and the addition of cobalt gave the ewes better appetites, and they produced thriftier lambs.

All the deficiencies can be corrected by feeding a mixture of equal parts of "blue" salt and either bone meal or limestone. The blue salt contains both iodine and cobalt, and calcium is found in bone meal or limestone.

"A large proportion of the oat hay to be fed this winter will be immature and so will be low in energy value," Dr. Bowstead warned. In addition to the mineral supplement he advises the feeding of a quarter to three-quarters of a pound of grain per day to the pregnant ewes. ✓

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#### Disinfectants Work Better

In some instances of disease a specific disinfectant may be recommended. Yet, however powerful—and costly—such a disinfectant may be, it cannot kill unless it contacts the germs or parasites in question; and they are usually protected by grease and dirt. Lye cleaning removes this protective coating and permits disinfectants to operate efficiently.

#### Slaughter Houses

Lye is a great help in cleaning the slaughter house. Before swabbing down the floors, dissolve 3 tablespoons of Gillett's Lye in each gallon of water. This solution will greatly speed the removal of blood, dirt and other matter. It also deodorizes and sanitizes. It enables a single solution to be used for the complete cleansing job.

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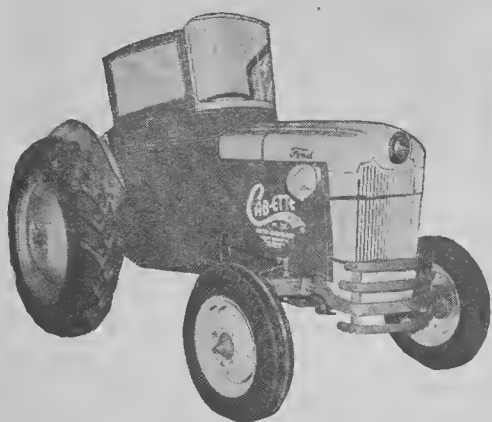
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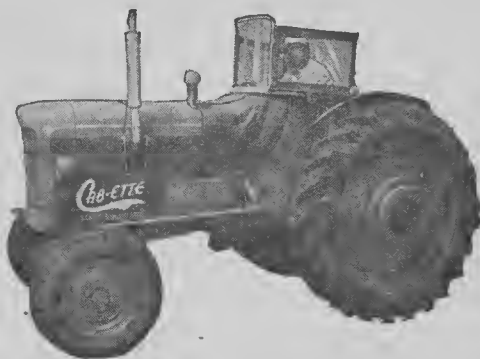
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## FIELD



[Guide photo

*Kochia, a tall-growing annual, is being tested at the University of Saskatchewan as a possible new forage crop.*

## Seven-Foot Forage For the Prairies?

*A heavy-yielding forage crop, new to western Canada, may provide an answer to light forage yields*

IT might sound far-fetched to tell of a hay crop that sprouts quickly in the spring, grows to a height of seven feet in one summer, branches out so thickly that even when planted in rows three feet apart it is difficult to work through, and grows on the open prairie.

It doubtless does sound far-fetched, a story from the same book that contains "Jack and The Beanstalk." But it's true, and the seed is not magic seed, but as ordinary as the most standard of wheats and barleys.

The new forage is kochia — commonly called Mexican Fire Plant—and it is new only as a forage plant. One type grows as a native weed in western Canada, but is small and worthless. Another, now being tested by Dr. J. B. Harrington at the Field Husbandry Department, University of Saskatchewan, was brought in from South Dakota, and is the one that shows promise.

First work with the plant was done by the State College at Brookings, South Dakota. They discontinued the work, and, aided by a grant of money from W. M. Rait of Pioneer Grain Company, Saskatchewan picked it up.

The research men advise farmers to wait a while before they begin to grow it. Until it is improved they do not feel that they can recommend it for general use. They are still not sure that it will serve as a suitable forage crop for the open plains.

The Field Husbandry Department at Saskatoon collected 2,100 samples this year, ten from each of 210 selected lines, and are analyzing them to determine the feeding quality of each. Standard lines are high in protein — and so high in nitrogen — but are also high in ash. Feeding tests have demonstrated that kochia should not be fed alone, but if lines could be found that were low in ash this restriction might be lifted.

Dr. B. C. Jenkins, Plant Science Department, University of Manitoba, did extensive work with kochia before he left Saskatchewan. He told The Country Guide that kochia strains

which produce the most forage are too late in maturing to be reliable seed producers in the west. "As we select early strains that will ripen seed, we get into lines that don't produce the bulk of forage produced by the later maturing lines," said Dr. Jenkins.

It has been suggested that one answer might be to have the seed produced in the United States and grow kochia here only for forage. A quarter-acre plot at the University of Saskatchewan that did mature seed yielded 400 pounds of clean seed, and a seeding rate of less than ten pounds an acre is heavy enough: One acre could produce enough seed for a quarter section.

"Is there any likelihood of this imported kochia becoming a bad weed?" we asked Dr. Harrington. He did not think it likely. "Kochia appears to be susceptible to 2,4-D and we do not feel it should be any more serious as a weed than pigweed," he said. "At the same time, it must be tested further for 2,4-D resistance before it would be desirable to have it too widely grown," he added.

In any event, kochia will not be harvested for cattle feed for some years. In 1955 it will be tested in a few southern dry areas to find whether it will produce. When all of the answers have been written in, the hope is that a new forage crop will be available for prairie farmers.—R.H. V

## The Right Disk For the Job

SEVERAL factors should be considered before deciding to buy a particular disk type tillage machine, according to the Experimental Station, Swift Current, Saskatchewan. The power required to pull the machine, its ability to penetrate the soil and to cut across its entire width, and its ability to handle trash, must all be considered.

A light draft machine is usually equipped with large diameter, shallow concavity, wide spaced disks. Rubber

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## FIELD

tired wheels and anti-friction bearings in the wheels and disk gangs will help to reduce draft.

Deep concavity disks, on the other hand, are normally required for deep penetration. The disks should be large in diameter and wide spaced. Operation at a slow speed and the proper adjustment of the angle of cut will help to give needed penetration.

Well sharpened, large diameter and wide spaced disks work well in trash. A slow speed aids in doing good work, and the work should not be undertaken unless the trash is relatively dry.

The size of the machine should bear a relation to the topography of the land that is to be worked. Obviously, on rolling land the narrower widths should be used.

All the features that might be desired are not likely to be incorporated in any one machine, so the prospective buyer should select the one that will most closely suit his individual needs. V

## Don't Burn the House Down

SASKATCHEWAN'S fire commissioner cautions that chimneys and heating appliances should be checked early in the winter heating season, if they have not already been carefully examined.

Householders should determine that mortar joints in the chimney are firm, with no breaks in the flue, he says. Unused openings should be properly closed and sealed. Soot should be cleaned out of the chimneys once a year.

Defective or improperly installed heating appliances may present a fire hazard. Automatic fire units, oil or stoker, are, he says, causing an increasing number of fires, and should be checked by qualified servicemen to determine that they are in proper working order. V

## Improving Crested Wheatgrass

SEVERAL strains of the Standard type of crested wheatgrass have been found to outyield the Fairway variety for hay. The Forage Crops Laboratory, Saskatoon, and the experimental stations in western Canada have been co-operating in the search for a strain that will grow taller than the generally grown Fairway.

One of the most satisfactory Standard strains is S-131, a strain introduced from the U.S.S.R. The average of 27 tests in western Canada showed a yield fully 12 per cent greater than the yield of Fairway. The average height of the Standard strain, over a period of years, was 20 inches, compared with an average height of 16 inches for Fairway. Seed yields of the Standard strain were, however, only 85 per cent of the Fairway production. The S-131 strain appeared more suitable in mixtures with alfalfa than the Fairway strain.

Several strains of the Standard type, including introduced strains from the United States and strains bred at the Forage Crops Laboratory, also performed better than Fairway. Fairway crested wheatgrass appears to take a second place to some Standard strains as a variety for hay use in western Canada. V

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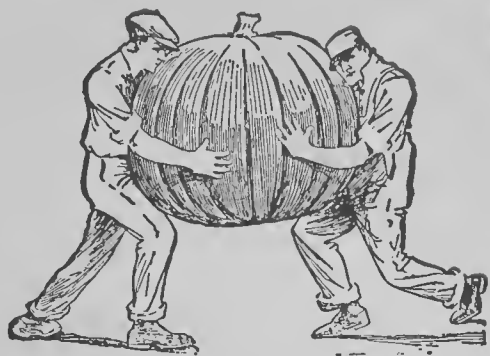
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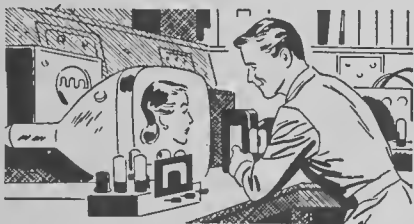
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## HORTICULTURE

### Onions For Winter

**B**AGS of big firm winter onions were harvested at the Scott Experimental Station in Saskatchewan this fall. Yellow Globe Danvers, Riverside Sweet Spanish and Ailsa Craig, as good as the best imported onions, were grown during the short summer season. Yet Superintendent G. D. Matthews explains that most of the onions eaten in the districts of central and northern Saskatchewan are imported. He believes gardeners are missing a good bet.

The Scott station has demonstrated a successful way of securing worthwhile harvests. They have had green onions grown outdoors on Vancouver Island early in the spring and shipped to Scott in time for planting. They say it is nearly as effective to purchase a few bunches of the green onions found in every grocery store, and instead of cutting them up for salad, or serving them with lunch, to plant them in the garden. Since they already have a good start, they are soon on their way to producing the big winter onions that every family uses.

Scott has compared this method with the laborious task of planting seeds in a hothouse in mid-March and transplanting about May 15-30, when frost danger is largely past. They found that yields by the latter method were just about the same as those resulting from planting green onions right off the grocer's shelf. They also tried growing onions from sets and found the onions produced from the green seedlings slightly superior. — D.R.B. ✓

### Stored Vegetables Need Ventilation

**T**HE excessive amount of rainfall during the 1954 season meant that many of the main vegetable crops carried larger percentages of moisture than normal when put into storage.

Attention to this factor in storing vegetables this year will be more important earlier than later in the storage season. Make sure that there is provision for fresh air to get into the storage bin or cellar, as well as an adequate outlet for the moisture-laden air. All root vegetables are better stored, if it is practicable to do it, in a bin that has a slatted bottom, raised from the floor so that air may enter from the bottom and pass upward. ✓

### For Better Strawberry Varieties

**A**N interesting example of the amount of careful work involved in the production of a new fruit variety comes from the experimental station at Beaverlodge, Alberta.

The immediate problem there is to secure more satisfactory strawberry varieties for the Peace River region. It has been found that the summer-bearing Senator Dunlap, and the Northerner and Gem everbearing varieties are not sufficiently hardy to be reliable and could also stand improved quality. The station horticulturists, V. Chanasyk and J. A. Wallace, have tested 80 varieties for their suitability. Of these, ten had possibilities, but



[Guide photo]  
*This Michaelmas daisy produces tall clumps of strong stems, which in October are covered with bloom.*

only the three mentioned merited recommendation. Because none of the three are fully satisfactory, Messrs. Chanasyk and Wallace are now trying to produce better varieties themselves.

There are many difficulties in the way. In the first place, strawberry seeds do not germinate readily; but the principal difficulty is to discover crosses between cultivated varieties, or between these and hardy native strawberries, which will produce the desired result. This involves a great many factors such as resistance to high and low temperatures and to drought, adaptation to long and short days, dessert quality under adverse conditions, as well as firmness and toughness of skin, and size and texture of the fruit suitable for dessert, jam, canning and quick freezing.

Already the two horticulturists at Beaverlodge have made 41 crosses involving 14 varieties, and have been successful in securing nearly 17,000 seeds. Last spring 1,000 new strawberry seedlings were set out. Perhaps, out of all the work that this involves, one good new strawberry variety, suitable for the area, may be secured. ✓

### Growing Your Own Seed

**N**OT many farmers, in all probability, attempt to grow any of their own vegetable seed. If they do, they are probably disappointed, even in areas where good vegetable seed can be grown commercially.

Reason for the disappointment is partly because seed growing is a highly specialized branch of agriculture, requiring special skills and knowledge, if much of it is to be grown. In addition, the tendency in the home vegetable garden is to cut or pick the choicest specimens for the table, leaving the remainder to produce seed. Commercial seed producers follow exactly the opposite course and are careful to rogue out any off-type plants, or those that are not vigorous.

Officials at the Saanichton Experimental Station say that another danger is lack of isolation in the home garden. Most garden vegetables cross-pollinate readily, either by means of the wind, as with beets, spinach and corn, or by insects, as with cucumbers, squash, marrows, pumpkins and melons. Where open pollination is permitted, it is practically impossible to get complete isolation and prevent inter-crossing of two varieties. ✓

**USE**  
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100% PURE  
**LYE**



## POULTRYMAN'S BEST FRIEND STILL LYE!

Although there is a definite place for the new high-price, high-power disinfectants, poultrymen should bear two points in mind: First, no disinfectant, however powerful, can kill unless it can reach the trouble source. Second, no method has yet proved to be as effective in maintaining flock health as regular and thorough lye cleaning.

### LYE DOES MANY JOBS

Lye is at once the cheapest and most effective cleaning and sanitizing agent for all poultry equipment. It cuts through grease extremely fast, removes dirt, and also sanitizes and deodorizes. (Poultry are often irritated by strong smells). It is highly effective against the germs of Coccidiosis, Laryngotracheitis, Infectious Bronchitis, Pullorum, Fowl Cholera, Bacillary White Diarrhoea of young chicks, and roundworm eggs.

### USE LYE REGULARLY

The poultryman who cleans regularly with recommended lye solutions (costing around 1¢ a gallon) will seldom, if ever, have need for costly disinfectants, nor will he suffer loss through culls, food waste, disease and death.

GLF-23

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POULTRY



This modern, 1,500-bird laying house is the main production plant of the Clark Poultry Farm.

## Assembly Line Egg Production

*A time clock sets the working hours of hens on this modern poultry farm*

**P**AMPERED hens, like pampered people, find it hard to adjust to the conditions of ordinary life, in the opinion of poultry breeder Douglas Clark of Brandon. By "ordinary life" he means the kind of life the birds would have to lead on an average farm. When flocks are raised under conditions that are too ideal, unthrifty birds which would normally be culled are liable to pass inspection. Even the sound ones are apt to prove less successful when they encounter conditions that are a bit rougher than they have been used to.

Located about a mile out of Brandon, on Eighteenth Street, the Clark hatchery offers ambitious young hens a full 14-hour working day under conditions that resemble those of a modern factory's assembly line. The day begins promptly at 5:00 a.m. when a time clock device switches on the lights in the laying house and ends when it turns them off again 14 hours later. This versatile clock also controls automatic feed hoppers and attached conveyor chains which run for half an hour, then go off for three-quarters of an hour, throughout the period that the lights are in operation. These chains are located in the bottom of continuous feed troughs, about three inches wide and three inches deep, that run completely around each floor of the two-storey laying house. A thermostatically controlled fan keeps air circulating evenly about the building, and a system of automatic float valves ensures that water in the drinking troughs is kept at a constant level. Any hen that can stand up under the rigid schedules and restrictions of Doug Clark's egg factory would probably regard life in the average farm yard as a rest cure.

The Clark poultry farm is as modern and compact as any industrial layout, consisting of a 1,500-bird laying house and a single storey building which contains office space, a battery of electric incubators with a capacity of 26,000 eggs, and the farm living quarters. Most of the year the plant is engaged in commercial egg production, which runs as high as 74 dozen eggs per day. The bulk of the egg crop

is sold right on the farm, any surplus is trucked into Brandon markets. From January to May plant facilities are concentrated in the production of breeding stock, but before this begins all the flocks have been rigidly culled of unthrifty birds.

White Leghorns and Barred Rocks comprise the laying flocks of the farm. In breeding season these hens are crossed with Australorp, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island Red cockerels, producing Austra-white, New Hampshire-Barred Rock, and Rhode Island Red-Barred Rock crosses. The breeding cockerels used are all top quality R.O.P. stock, obtained from such widely scattered points as the B.C. Coast, New Brunswick, and Massachusetts. Quality birds is the number one requirement for success in poultry breeding.

Doug Clark has been in the poultry business for five years. During the last war he saw service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant—C.V.F. V



[Guide photos] Douglas Clark of Brandon, Manitoba.

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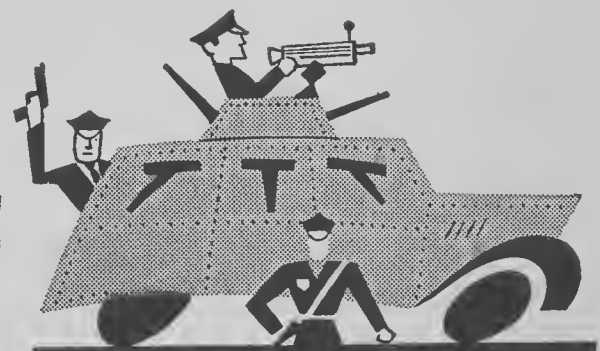
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## FARM YOUNG PEOPLE

### National 4-H Winners



National 4-H Club Week champions, selected from among 116 boys and girls who won the Toronto trip by topping elimination contests in their home provinces, were: (1) Manitoba—Eleanor Johanneson and Joyce Borgford of the Arborg Clothing Club; (2) Saskatchewan—Gudrun Franson and Frank Safinuk of the Colonsay-Elstow Poultry Club, front row, Reg and Larry Nelson of the Prince Albert Beef Club, back row left, and Don Knesacck and Ken Serdula of the Esterhazy Grain Club, back row right; (3) Alberta—Joan Leslie and Mavis Scott of the Mossleigh Food Club; and (4) British Columbia—Dennis Lyster and Bernice McCallan of the Armstrong Swine Club. In addition to the competitions, the contestants enjoyed trips to Ottawa and Niagara Falls, an address by Dr. Sydney Smith, president of the University of Toronto, a visit to the Royal Winter Fair, and a professional hockey game.

### Junior Council



Newly elected members of the 4-H Junior Council for 1955, reading left to right, are: front row—Shirley Brown, Newfoundland; Elaine Flock, Saskatchewan; Clarence Roth, Alberta (Chairman); Mary McKinney, Ontario (Secretary); Margaret Kent, Nova Scotia. Back row—Leopold Gaudet, New Brunswick; Barbara Andrews, British Columbia; Jack Jubenville, Manitoba; Ian Macarthur, Prince Edward Island; and John Oswald, Quebec.



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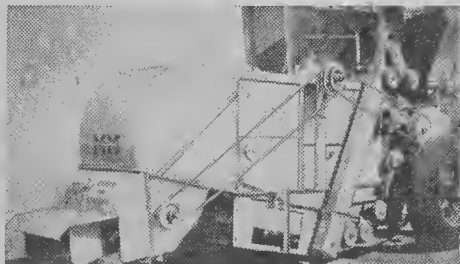
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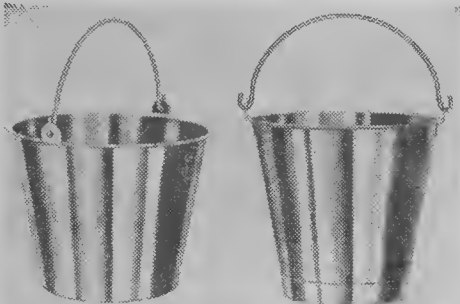
## WHAT'S NEW



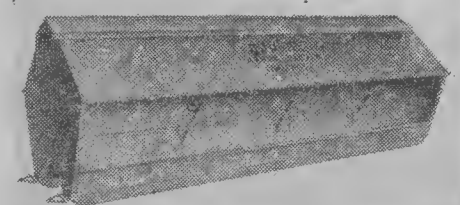
According to the manufacturer, this new battery is adjustable to meet the varying needs of summer and winter driving. A plastic key, turned in each of the battery cells, adjusts the water capacity up for summer driving and down for winter driving. A reduced winter water capacity is said to provide a higher acid gravity at top charge, a stronger electrolyte and so greater cranking power in cold weather. (Willard Storage Battery Co., Ltd.) (57) ✓



This straw cutter and spreader, according to the manufacturer, has a large over-capacity cylinder designed to process straw from even the largest combines. Powered directly from the combine cylinder shaft, it is without augers, blowers, and rollers, and is uncomplicated. (Polaris Industries.) (58) ✓



Through a manufacturing technique known as flow turning, these milk pails are made without seams, from stainless steels or alloys. According to the manufacturer they are without beaded rims, corners, or crevices and are completely sanitary. The ears are of the same piece of steel as the body, instead of being riveted. (Steelex Corporation.) (59) ✓



This range feeder for turkeys and other large fowl is mounted on skids for easy moving, fills readily through the hinged top, and with the inverted V-bottom is said by the manufacturer to require no agitators to shake down the feed. (Hudson Mfg. Co.) (60) ✓

For further information about any item mentioned in this column, write to What's New Department, The Country Guide, 290 Vaughan St., Winnipeg 2, giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

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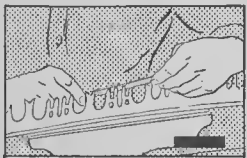
Thousands of ranchers have discovered there's a *difference* that doesn't show up in just tractor weight, horsepower and price. Ask your Allis-Chalmers dealer to show you the many *extra* HD-5 working values.



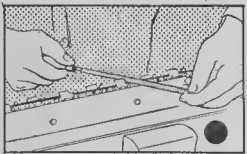
Note the level, deep-cut discing of the Allis-Chalmers Model J Offset Disc Harrow behind the HD-5. Disc harrow differences are big, too. Here is disc-gang lubrication good for the life of the blades.

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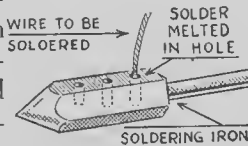
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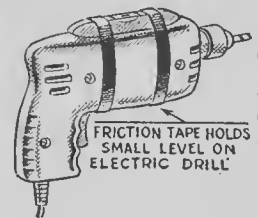
## WORKSHOP

# Workshop Jobs Made Simpler

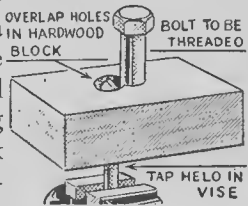
**Improved Soldering Iron.** By drilling several three-sixteenth inch holes in your soldering iron and making them different depths you will have wells into which you can dip wire ends when soldering them. Heat the iron in the usual way, melt solder into the holes, and the solder will stay available while several wires are fused.—H.E.F.



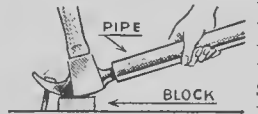
**Drilling Level Holes.** When level holes have to be drilled with the electric drill the guesswork can be eliminated by attaching a small spirit level to the tool in the manner shown.—H.E.F.



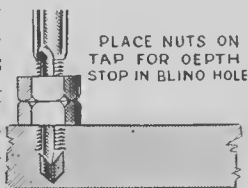
**Cutting Left-Hand Thread.** A jig for cutting a left-hand thread on a bolt can be made as shown. Drill two overlapping holes in a block of hardwood, exactly the same size as the bolt to be threaded. Place a right-hand tap in from the bottom, clamp in a vise and place the bolt to be threaded in the adjoining hole and turn it to the left.—A.B., Sask.



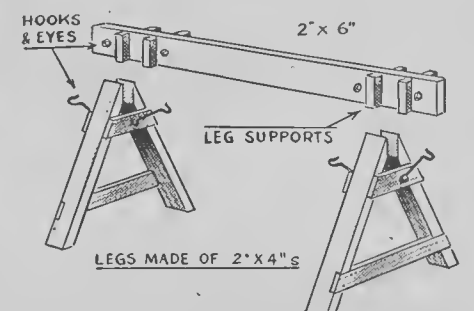
**Saving Hammer Handles.** More hammer handles are broken by pulling with the claws than ever are by hammering. I spare my hammer handles by slipping a piece of pipe about 20 inches long over the face of the hammer and getting my leverage with it.—M.E., Alta.



**Tap Depth Stop.** Two nuts placed on a tap as shown will serve as a depth stop when using a tap in a blind hole. This helps to prevent breaking the tap. It should be occasionally withdrawn to clear the chips, as the nuts will hinder the cleaning of the tap.—A.B., Sask.



**Knock-Down Saw Horse.** A saw horse that can be knocked down, as shown in the illustration, in a few



seconds is handy for moving from room to room in a building under construction, and if several are to be transported in a truck or car trunk

Some awkward jobs can become less awkward with the help of a good idea

they are much more convenient than one-piece saw horses.—J.S., Altona, Man.

**Putting On Chains.** Putting on chains can be easy, even on a loaded truck. I take a four-by-four, a foot in length, and cut in a deep notch, as shown. I lay the cross chain in the notch and drive the truck or car up onto it. This leaves the cross chain in the bottom notch loose and free for easy tightening. It's quicker and safer than using a jack.—I.W.D.



**Keep Pliers Open.** A short piece of rubber hose will help to keep your pliers open, and will make it much easier to work in tight corners where both hands cannot be used.—M.E., Alta.



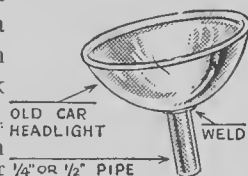
**Granary Lock.** To stop stock from opening a granary door I nailed a horseshoe beside the door, as shown in the illustration. When swung to the horizontal position the door can be opened, but the horseshoe always falls back to keep the door secure.—W.D., Hazelridge, Man.



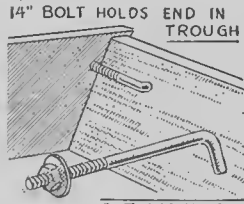
**Milk Stool.** A comfortable milk stool can be easily made from an old pail and an implement seat bolted tightly together.—A.B., Sask.



**Emergency Funnel.** If you find yourself caught short without a funnel, take an old car or truck light reflector, make a hole in the bottom if there isn't one and weld on a short piece of pipe.—P.H.T., Alta.



**Saving Hog Troughs.** To keep the hogs from knocking the end out of the trough I bent a 14-inch bolt as shown, and fitted it into the end of the trough as shown in the illustration. I put one in each end.—H.P., Sask.



**Better Mouse Trap.** I catch mice by taking a five-gallon pail and putting about an inch of oats, or some other bait, in it. The mice will run up the board and into the pail, and will not be able to get out.—W.D., Hazelridge, Man.



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## Belgian Farm

Continued from page 10

farm. Mr. Vermoesen has found that a portable electric fence is invaluable, and he has developed a system of rotating the herd on an acre or so each week. In all, there are 15 acres of the farm in grass, ten of these in permanent meadow and the other five seeded down and broken up from time to time.

Mr. Vermoesen does not use any regular rotation, finding it to his advantage to vary crops and fields according to marketing conditions. In general, the land in cultivation at the moment is divided into three, and a rough root-wheat-coarse grain rotation is maintained, with a field being seeded down every third or fourth year to new grassland, while the old pasture is broken up and brought back into the rotation.

For instance, last summer the Vermoesen crop consisted of seven acres of wheat, a similar-sized field divided equally between barley, oats and rye, and a third field largely in chicory, with an acre or so of beet root for cattle fodder in winter.

Grassland that is saved for hay is cut, usually, three times a year and cured and stacked dry. However, Mr. Vermoesen is building a new small silo and part of the next hay crop will go as green ensilage. With the idea of boosting silage consumption in the herd, as a part answer to scarcity of concentrates, he has been casting about for a suitable corn to grow under Belgian conditions.

The great problem on any average-sized, or smaller, European farm, is that of mechanization. Until recently the ratio of man-hours per unit of production was not so important. It is still, for a western Canadian, something of a shock to see six or eight hands laboring to gather the harvest from a field that a Saskatchewan wheat grower would combine alone in an afternoon.

The real squeeze, of course, is felt by farmers like Frans Vermoesen, who are producing from almost the smallest economic unit possible. As manual labor becomes almost as expensive a commodity as gasoline and piston rings, the small operators find that most of the machinery on the market is not geared to their needs.

Two years ago Frans Vermoesen made the plunge and bought a two-plow tractor. Although he is obviously pleased at the amount of muscle-stiffening work it has removed from farming, he still is dubious, in theory at least, about the advantages of mechanization.

The little book in the kitchen tells him that in the days when he was harnessing two or three big Belgian horses he could stay on the field at a cost of less than six francs (12 cents) an hour. Since the tractor came to the farm the cost of field work has been upped to 85 cents an hour. Mr. Vermoesen said the amount of time required in the field had been reduced only from 730 hours per year to 605, but he admitted that he was probably giving his land better attention.

The mechanization, however, has not gone very far. Frans has shied away from using the combine that some of his neighbors employ on a co-operative basis, on the ground that he needs every forkful of straw he can

save for livestock. Although the farm is equipped with electricity, the cow-barn is still without a milking machine. As a matter of fact, it is the custom in the summer time to milk in the pasture field. Since the milk is sold through a co-operative as whole milk, he has no need for a cream separator.

The main interest during the last few years, of course, has been in rebuilding the farmstead. Since there wasn't much of the old farmstead left to judge by, we had to take Frans' word for it that a lot of time-wasting nooks were smoothed out in the new buildings. The old farmstead was built in the traditional European plan, around a central courtyard. The new model has saved some of the best characteristics of such a plan, and eliminated the worst features. The house is still joined directly to the cow stable, through the dairy, but the pigpen is detached some distance from the other buildings.

LIKE a good many farmers around the world, Frans Vermoesen's major concern these days is that his costs of production seem to be climbing faster than the prices he receives. On an average, he is getting more than four times as much as in prewar years, for cash field crops, and nearly four times as much for livestock products. On the other hand, from the latest figures available it is clear that production costs have climbed nearly 450 per cent above the pre-war level. Labor, for instance, is 560 per cent higher; mineral rations for livestock 480 per cent higher; field fertilizer 290 per cent higher.

But despite the squeeze, Belgian farmers are leaving behind them an enviable record. Figures released by the Organization for European Economic Co-operation show that,—with the exception of Holland,—Belgium has the highest value of production per hectare (2.5 acres) of any of the 18 member countries.

How does a nation of predominantly small farmers such as Frans Vermoesen achieve such a record? The O.E.E.C. has another table that tells part of the answer. In the use of commercial fertilizer Belgium again runs second only to Holland in the average amount applied per hectare.

Frans Vermoesen may not be aware of the over-all record of his country in agriculture production, but he is very much aware of the statistics which pertain to his own 42 acres. We asked him how he found time to keep the neat set of books on production costs and receipts. His answer, translated from Flemish, was to the effect that the late evening hours he spends laboriously figuring in the kitchen, were worth more to the farm's economy than any other part of the day's work.



"Now I know why nobody wants to fight after they smoke the pipe of peace!"

## IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

### 80th ANNUAL STATEMENT

CAPITAL \$7,000,000

REST ACCOUNT \$15,000,000

YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1954

#### ASSETS

Notes of and deposits with Bank of Canada.....	\$ 52,556,516
Cheques and other items in transit, net.....	41,296,932
Other cash and deposits.....	24,265,734
Government and Municipal securities, not exceeding market value.....	208,825,729
Other securities, not exceeding market value.....	22,501,195
Call loans, secured.....	17,602,780
<b>TOTAL QUICK ASSETS</b> .....	<b>\$367,048,886</b>
Other current loans, less provision for estimated loss.....	300,996,710
Mortgages and hypothecs insured under the National Housing Act, 1954, less provision for estimated loss.....	1,357,752
Customers' liability under acceptances, guarantees and letters of credit, as per contra.....	6,244,694
Shares of corporation controlled by the bank.....	2,750,000
Bank premises.....	3,943,872
Other assets.....	32,231
	<b>\$682,374,145</b>

#### LIABILITIES

Deposits.....	\$650,299,889
Acceptances, guarantees and letters of credit.....	6,244,694
Other liabilities.....	2,763,533
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC</b> .....	<b>\$659,308,116</b>
Capital, rest account and undivided profits.....	23,066,029
	<b>\$682,374,145</b>

#### STATEMENT OF UNDIVIDED PROFITS

Balance of profits for the year before deducting the undermen- tioned items, but after contributions to Staff Pension Fund and after making transfers to Contingency Reserves out of which full provision has been made for diminution in value of investments and loans.....	\$ 3,842,458
Provision for depreciation of Bank premises.....	475,336
	\$ 3,367,122
Provision for Government of Canada Income Taxes in respect of the profits shown above.....	1,818,000
Balance available for distribution.....	\$ 1,549,122
Dividends at the rate of \$1.20 per share.....	\$ 840,000
Provision for Bonus of 30c. per share payable December 1, 1954.....	210,000
	1,050,000
Balance carried forward.....	\$ 499,122
Balance of undivided profits October 31, 1953.....	566,907
Balance of undivided profits October 31, 1954.....	\$ 1,066,029

#### REST ACCOUNT

Balance at credit of account October 31, 1953.....	\$ 12,000,000
Transferred from Contingency Reserves on which income taxes have been paid.....	3,000,000
Balance at credit of account October 31, 1954.....	\$ 15,000,000

L. S. MACKERSY  
President

J. S. PROCTOR  
Vice-President and General Manager

**IMPERIAL** "the bank that service built"

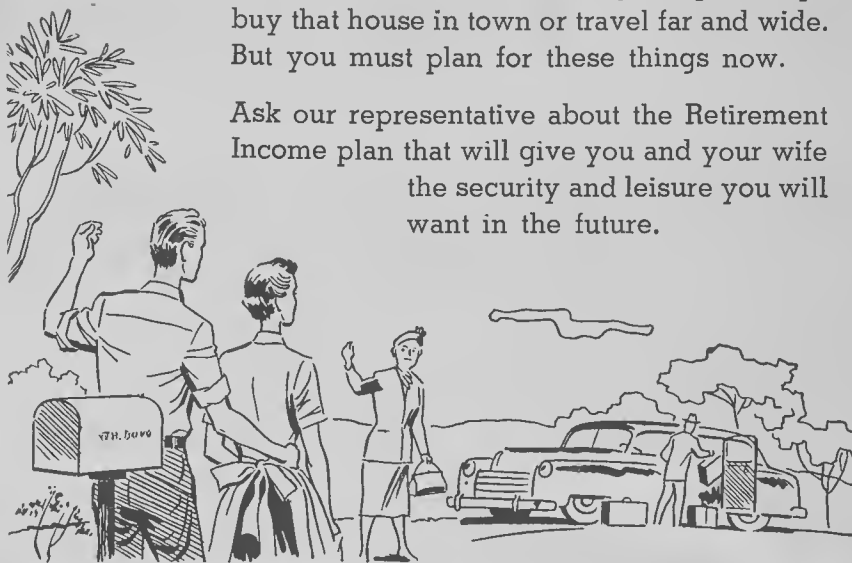
## PLANNING TO RETIRE?

As you get older it's not so easy to put in your usual day's work on the farm. The tractor seems harder to manage and those milk cans begin to weigh half a ton.

When this time comes you should take things easy. Perhaps

buy that house in town or travel far and wide. But you must plan for these things now.

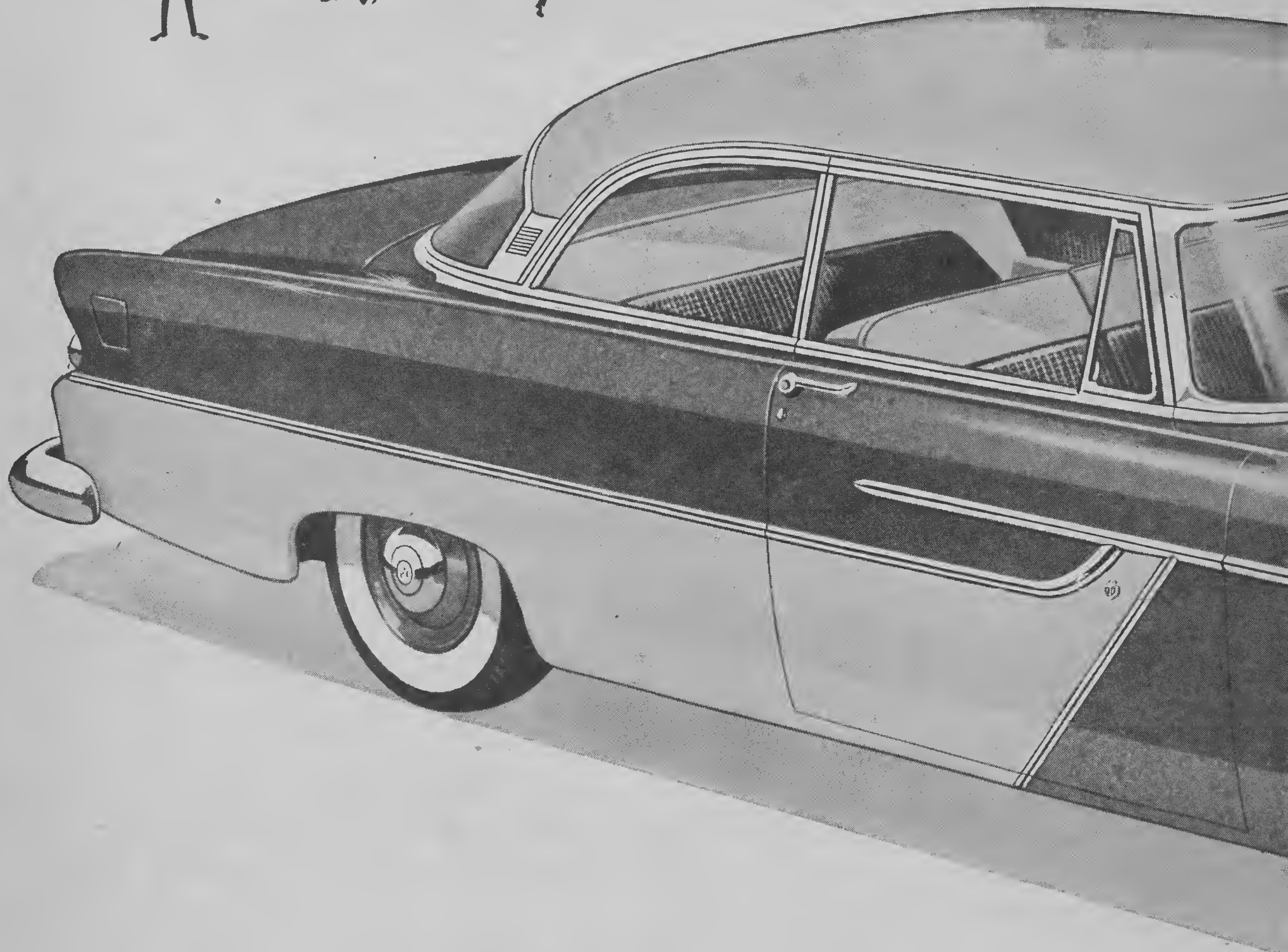
Ask our representative about the Retirement Income plan that will give you and your wife the security and leisure you will want in the future.



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even when the car is standing still. And under the hood you'll discover silky-smooth power in new V-8 and 6-cylinder engines. Yes, from roof to road, from bumper to bumper—you've never seen so much that's new . . . so much value! See the eager new Plymouth today!

*Now at your Chrysler·Plymouth·Fargo dealer's*



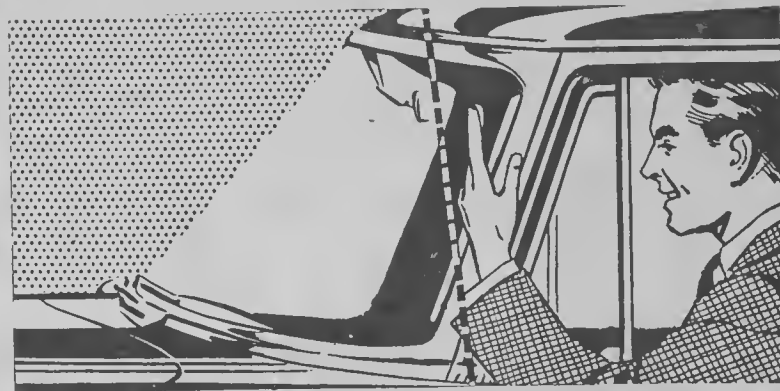


Unique rear deck treatment with graceful, fin-like rear fenders emphasizes the low, racy look of the sweeping Plymouth silhouette! Trunk provides extra-generous luggage space.

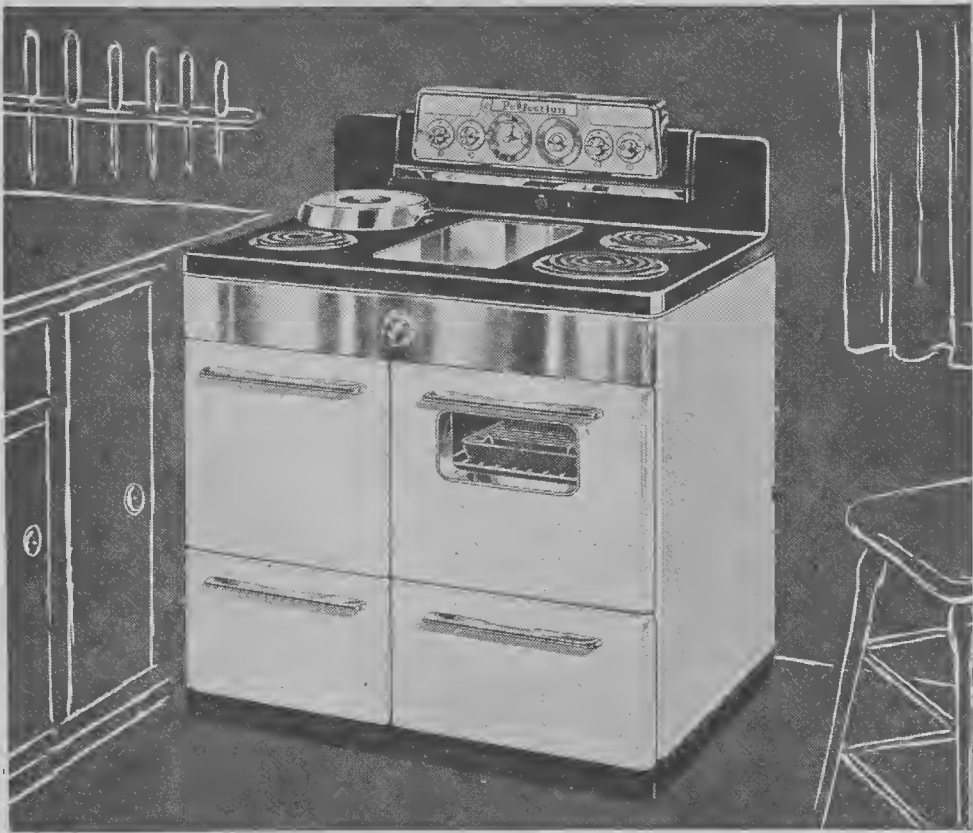


PowerFlite automatic transmission\* Flite Control lever is mounted on the graceful curved instrument panel.

New Horizon windshield wraps around not only at the bottom corners, but also at the upper half where it really counts. Corner posts have a rakish, rearward slant completely in keeping with the flowing, modern lines of the new 1955 Plymouth.



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HEAD OFFICE..PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE  
WINNIPEG . REGINA . EDMONTON

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

This feature is furnished monthly by United Grain Growers Limited

### United Grain Growers Expands

The forty-eighth fiscal year ending July 31 last, in addition to showing highly satisfactory operating results, was another year of notable expansion by United Grain Growers Limited. During the year large additions were made to the number of country elevators and the volume of storage space was substantially increased. At the close of the year the Company was in a better position than ever before to service the needs of its customers and was handling a larger proportion than formerly of the crop of western Canada.

These impressive achievements were recorded in the report of the Board of Directors and presented to the Company's Annual Meeting in Calgary, November 3 and 4 by J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., President and General Manager.

Receipts of grain at country elevators during the past crop year were considerably lower than those of the previous year when they were at an all-time high. This was because farmers' marketings were restricted by the lack of available storage space resulting from a large grain carryover from the previous year. Broadly speaking, farmers were able to deliver grain only to the extent that space was provided by grain shipments from country elevators to terminals. In turn, export demand, which was below that of the previous year, forced a limit on available terminal space. Consequently, a decline in handling earnings was inevitable because of reduced receipts at country elevators.

From a Company point of view, this reduction in earnings was offset to a substantial extent by increased storage earnings, since more grain was carried in country elevators for longer periods of time. Too, the volume of terminal elevator business increased because the operation of a large Vancouver terminal was resumed. For these reasons, operating results were not appreciably different from the previous year.

Earnings for the year were \$2,423,000 after charging \$750,000 for patronage dividends and \$100,000 for provision against inventory valuation. The corresponding amount for the previous year was \$2,357,000 after charging \$975,000 for patronage dividends and \$150,000 against inventory valuation. To this was added \$178,000 representing recovery on an insurance claim of a prior year and \$14,000 profit on disposal of properties, making a total of \$2,615,000. After provision for depreciation of \$1,179,000, interest on bonds of approximately \$192,000 and other miscellaneous charges of \$142,000, profit before income taxes amounted to \$1,102,000. After income tax deductions, profit for the year carried to earned surplus was \$502,000. This corresponded to \$648,000 in the previous year.

Earned surplus was carried forward from the previous year in the amount of \$1,954,000, and addition of profit of the past year of \$502,000 made a total of \$2,456,000. Deductions of \$239,000 in respect to dividends declared on capital stock and \$140,000 as appropriation for deferred income

taxes left \$2,077,000 earned surplus carried forward.

Shareholders' equity at the end of the year was a record high of \$9,045,000, an increase of \$125,000 over the previous year. Working capital, despite substantial capital expenditures stood at \$6,063,000.

The sum of \$750,000 appropriated for patronage dividend on grain deliveries during the past year was sufficient for the same rates as the previous year, 1¼ cents per bushel on wheat and ¾ cent per bushel on other grains. With the inclusion of this amount total deferred patronage dividend liabilities reached the sum of \$3,171,000, indicative of the extent to which the Company's plan of dealing with patronage dividend credits on a deferred basis has made resources available for expenditure on grain storage facilities.

The directors, said President J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., believe that large capital expenditures will still be necessary from year to year. The building problem which will develop in future years is to replace elevators which have reached the end of their useful life. "A continuing program of elevator construction is necessary if adequate service to western farmers is to be maintained," stated Mr. Brownlee.

### Additions to Elevator System

During the year the Company acquired most of the country elevators of the Midland and Pacific Grain Corporation to the number of 65. "These elevators were absorbed into the Company's system," stated Mr. Brownlee, "with very little increase in overhead expense and a large increase in volume was thereby obtained including increased flow of grain through the Company's terminals at Vancouver." Except for the purchase in 1948 of 110 elevators from the Reliance Grain Company this was the largest single transaction of the kind in U.G.G. history.

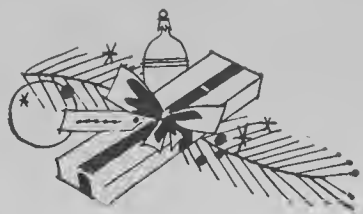
Quite apart from those purchases, the year's building program for the country elevator system was the largest in the Company's history. Total capital expenditures of some \$2,000,000 were involved. During the year 67 elevators were purchased and eight built, two elevators were sold, one was wrecked, and one destroyed by fire. Storage capacity was further expanded with the addition of 115 new annexes.

The country system at the end of the year comprised 693 country elevators as against 621 at the close of the previous year. Of these 119 were in Manitoba, 204 in Saskatchewan, 363 in Alberta and seven in British Columbia. Also included in the country elevator system were 674 annexes, 345 coal sheds, 370 warehouses and 443 dwellings for agents. Total capacity of country elevators and annexes was 43,000,000 bushels.

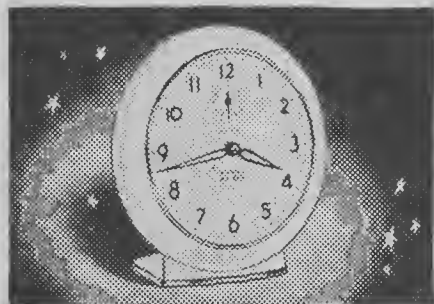
Total capital expenditures on the country elevator system since 1947 amount to \$9,500,000, greater for the seven-year period than all previous investment in country elevator properties.

The Annual Report dealt briefly with operations of the Farm Supplies

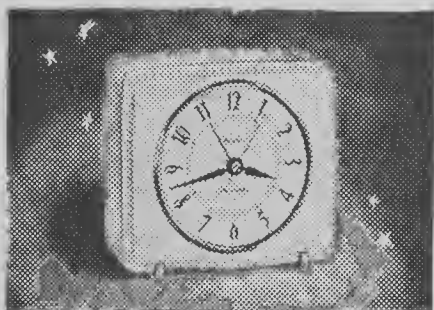




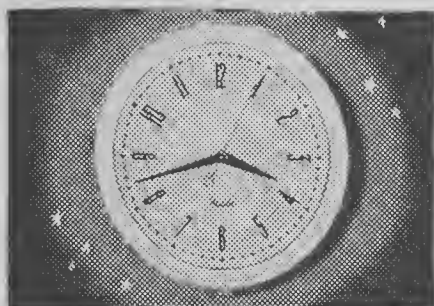
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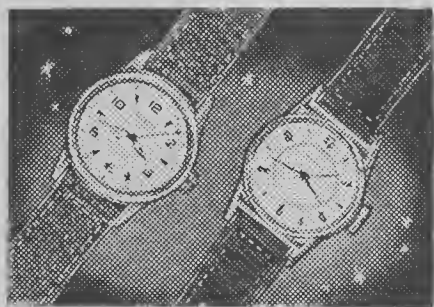
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Department which, as in former years, continued to give useful service to the Company's customers in the supply of various commodities, chief of which were binder twine, coal, feed, salt, 2,4-D preparations and aluminum sheeting.

"Importance of the department," said the Company's President, "is not confined to actual sales made, for over a long period it has frequently been a force in holding down prices over large areas in western Canada. In addition," he said, "it was this Company which, in the early years of this century, first made possible the purchase by local farmers' associations of supplies in car-load quantities at wholesale prices. It thereby laid the foundation for much of the co-operative buying which now exists in western Canada."

#### Subsidiary Companies Active

Three wholly-owned subsidiaries of United Grain Growers Limited were active during the year, each returning a net profit for the period. These comprised The Grain Growers Export Company Limited, The Public Press Limited and United Grain Growers Securities Company Limited.

During the year the export company forwarded a limited quantity of grain to eastern ports for the Canadian Wheat Board but did not enter into the overseas export business.

The Public Press Limited had a satisfactory operating experience for the past year and contributed substantially to the earnings of the whole enterprise. The principal business of this subsidiary company is to print and publish "The Country Guide," but it also conducts a general printing business doing work of a high standard.

During the year The Public Press acquired by purchase, "Canadian Cattlemen," a magazine devoted to the beef cattle industry of Canada. "Canadian Cattlemen" already has a satisfactory standing among beef cattle producers, and under the new ownership is expected to expand in size, in circulation and in influence.

The United Grain Growers Securities Company Limited continued to act as general agent in western Canada for a number of large and strong insurance companies. Policies are issued to farmer customers throughout western Canada and cover insurance against fire, accident, hail and automobile risks.

#### Directors and Officers

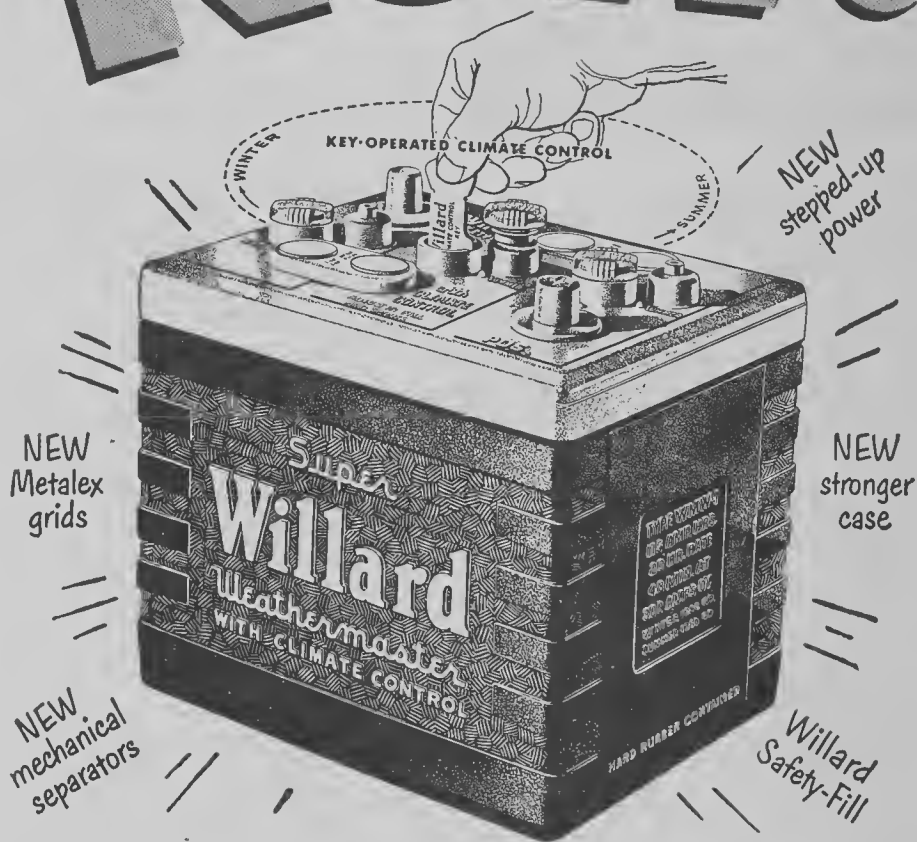
The meeting re-elected four retiring directors by acclamation for a three-year term: J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., Calgary, Alta.; R. C. Brown, Winnipeg, Man.; R. M. Wilson, Gladstone, Man., and H. E. Staples, Benito, Man.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors, J. E. Brownlee, Q.C., was re-elected president; R. C. Brown was re-elected first vice-president, and J. Harvey Lane was re-elected second vice-president. Other members of the executive committee of the Board are J. J. MacLellan, Purple Springs, Alta., and S. S. Sears, Nanton, Alta.

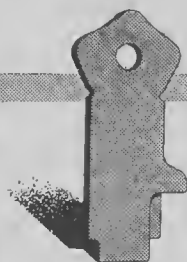
The following comprise the remaining members of the Board of Directors: J. I. Stevens, Morinville, Alta.; H. W. Allen, Hualien, Alta.; J. D. MacFarlane, Aylsham, Sask.; S. Loftson, Bredenbury, Sask.; R. M. Wilson, Gladstone, Man.; H. E. Staples, Benito, Man., and D. L. Trapp, Marriott, Sask.

V

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CALGARY EDMONTON, REGINA, SASKATOON

## Pushing up Grain Yields

Continued from page 7

when the summerfallow was used half the summer for growing clover? Didn't the trash pile up from these six-foot stands of clover and interfere with tillage? Did the growing clover interfere with the harvesting of the nurse crop?

Mike and Alan went out haying and Victor wrote in the answers.

"No," he said, "there's no trash problem. If you cover the clover it will surprise you how much it will rot down in three weeks. After three weeks you can use any implement, even a duck-foot, and the stems will break rather than pull out."

"What about the weeds, and especially wild oats? Wild oats are bad in the Valley this year. Can you control them?"

"It's tough," Victor replied, "tough, but not impossible. There's no chance to kill weeds in the good growth months of May, June and July, and wild oats get worse. When you plow the clover down in July, the soil is dry and cloddy, and wild oats are not encouraged to sprout. You often have to take special measures to control wild oats."

The Lysaks have these special measures fairly well planned. They work the rough soil as soon as possible after they have plowed down the clover. If there is rain and warm weather they frequently get a good kill of weeds—including wild oats—in September. In the spring they frequently delay seeding for ten days, to catch another crop of weeds. In fields infested with wild oats they may delay seeding longer, for extra weed kills, and then seed barley. They spray broad-leaved weeds in the growing crop.

The proof of the system is there for all to see: the Lysaks raise some weeds, but the farm is far from being weedy.

Victor referred back the question of moisture used by the growing clover: "Moisture would probably be a much bigger problem on the open prairies than it is here," he said. "We are in a valley between mountains, and I think an inch of rain would do more here than it would on the prairies." He continued: "In a normal year I am sure that the moisture taken out of the fields is more than compensated for by the nitrogen put in. In my opinion, nitrogen deficiency is more important in the Valley than moisture deficiency, when it comes to cutting yields."

Experiences in the Valley bear out Lysak's argument. Every farmer interviewed was satisfied that he raised more grain, taken year in and year out, when he grew clover, than when he didn't. Even if a dry year came and yields were cut, there is a substantial backlog of increased yields to fall back on.

Some of these yield increases are tremendous. In the summer of 1949, the Lysaks fallowed land, only part of which was seeded down to clover; in 1950 they harvested 50 bushels to the acre of wheat off the clover-fallow land, and only 25 bushels to the acre off the straight fallow. In the second crop the yield difference was just as great. In other words, by seeding clover the Lysaks made 20 acres do the work of 40.

Victor and Mike have another idea, now. They seeded part of a field to oats nursing clover, in 1953.

This spring they let the clover grow until it was 18 inches high, plowed it down, harrowed, and seeded the field to barley. The production on this part of the field was much greater than on the part that had grown no clover.

"We have some hope of eliminating that summerfallow year," commented Victor. "If we can plow down the clover in time to seed the field and build up the nitrogen without taking a summerfallow year to do it, it will be the same as making the farm bigger. We would then summerfallow only when weeds made it absolutely necessary."

The Lysak boys do not summerfallow just from force of habit. Nor do they rely entirely on clover for building their soil. They normally grow 15 to 20 acres of alfalfa for their 20 head of cattle; and they took five straight crops off a field that had been down to alfalfa for five years. In 1948 they took off a cutting of alfalfa, and summerfallowed the land for the rest of the year. In 1949 it was dry, but they harvested a 30-bushel crop of wheat. It was a better growing year in 1950 and they took 55 bushels of wheat, followed by 63 bushels of barley in 1951, 65 bushels of barley in 1952 and 80 bushels of oats in 1953. "We summerfallowed it this year, but we wouldn't have done so, if it hadn't been for the weeds," said Victor. He was quite satisfied that five such crops could not have been harvested but for the useful work of the nitrogen-rich alfalfa.

How about clover in the nurse crop? Does it pose a harvesting problem?

"It can," said Victor. "If the clover shows any signs of interfering, we knock it back with 2,4-D," he said. "We generally spray with two or three ounces of an ester. One year, through error, we put on eight ounces of ester, and though it really set the clover back, it didn't kill it out."

There can be no question but that plowing down clover in the early blossom stage pays in the Swan River Valley, and pays handsomely. The men who should know best—the men who are doing it—are unanimous on this point.

Can it be done with equal advantage in other areas? "Probably not with equal advantage in all areas, and perhaps with no advantage in some, but with considerable gain in most," said R. A. Hedlin, associate professor of soils at the University of Manitoba.

"On experimental plots at the University we plowed down clover and stepped up wheat yields three or four bushels the first year, and a little more the second. The increase over the two years totalled 8.7 bushels," he said.

Dr. Hedlin was of the opinion that clover for green manure would be well worth while on the average through Manitoba, and on some farms the increases would be spectacular, as they have been in the Swan River Valley. In many cases he felt that the increase would be most marked in the second year.

"A good yield of clover should leave 100 pounds of nitrogen in the soil, and that would cost close to \$15, in a good commercial fertilizer," he said. "The ideal procedure would be for farmers to seed a small amount on their own farms and find out whether yields are increased over the next two or three years."

It is generally conceded that there is less response from the addition of

nitrogen to Saskatchewan and Alberta soils. Nevertheless, Dr. D. A. Rennie, assistant professor of soils at the University of Saskatchewan, told The Guide: "We feel that green manuring crops would be economically feasible on all the grey, grey-black and black soils in the province. We have a few tests out at the present time on the more arid soils, but until more information is accumulated, I would hesitate to advise anyone who is farming on dark-brown or brown soils, to adopt this practice."

Dr. Rennie points out that green manuring is becoming more extensive in Saskatchewan, particularly in the northeast part of the province. On the Kirk farm west of Nipawin green manuring increased grain yields from 29 bushels per acre up to 54.5 bushels per acre. Such increases, he feels, are likely to make the use of green manure crops more general.

What about Alberta? C. F. Bentley, associate professor of soils at the University of Alberta, is also hesitant to recommend sweet clover as a green manure in the drier parts of the province—the brown, dark-brown and thin-black zones. "On sulphur deficient, grey soils, the growing of any legume crop, accompanied by suitable fertilizers, results in exceedingly important and large increases," he said. "An increasing number of Alberta farmers are growing sweet clover for hay, or as a green manure, in the season when they previously would have fallowed the land," he went on.

It all gets back to a comment made by Victor Lysak as he stood and looked at a field of clover-fertilized wheat. "I guess any farmer would be smart to take a look at this green manure proposition; right here it sure has pushed up grain yields." V

## The Evening Star

Continued from page 9

had been killed in France. The following year the twins were born, and she then decided to go away and make a new life for herself. The opportunity came when she won a scholarship to study art in Montreal.

"I'm going to change my name," she told her parents.

Her mother wept but her father said, rubbing a hard hand across his wrinkled forehead, "Lesia has a right to her own life, Mamma."

With the scholarship money and what she had earned picking beets for her father, Lesia left home. For seven years she studied shoe designing. She slaved in factories and scrimped in order to have six months' study in England, and another three in Paris. Returning to Montreal she submitted sketches to shoe manufacturers, and her unusual styles had caught on. Lesia Love became a name in the fashion world.

Lesia hadn't counted on falling in love with Lawrie Bannon when she met him at the official opening of the Lesia Love studio.

Now, as she stood in the kitchen, Lawrie seemed to be with her. Tall, square-shouldered, with a walk that carried assurance, he was her dream. "I love his dark good looks, his warm, grey eyes," she told herself. "I admire his quick mind that has made him a success at thirty. But how can I marry him?"



She evaded his proposals that were light and bantering and somehow she felt that he did not really love her, not as she loved him. "You're the most beautiful thing on God's earth," he said, in her suite after the New Year's dance, then took a star-sapphire ring from his pocket. "Try this on for size."

Lesia held the ring. "Is it the outside me or the real me you love?" she asked wistfully.

"Darling, how can I tell?" He put his hand under her chin. "But if you don't say yes soon, I'll go nuts."

His unusual use of slang made her laugh. He put the ring on her finger just as the doorbell rang. It was a messenger with the telegram saying her mother was ill.

"I'm sorry," said Lawrie, taking the telegram from her trembling hand. "It's from Fedor Moroz." He glanced up from the paper. "The singer?"

"Yes. He was in France with my brother." There was no place in her mind for anything but fear for her Mother. "I'll have to go home," she said.

"I'll go with you."

"Oh no!" She saw surprise in his eyes at the sharpness of her tone. Still he must not meet her people. Even her mother's illness must not ruin what had taken ten years of toil and sacrifice to build. The taunt of the young schoolboy came back as if it had been said only yesterday. It became en-

twined with the fear for her mother and her uncertainty of the depth of Lawrie's love.

"Darling, don't look so frightened," soothed Lawrie. "Your mother is just ill. Hop a plane and get a nurse for her, then come back to me."

"It mightn't be that easy," she evaded.

"You'll be back soon, darling, or I'll come for you." He kissed her finger wearing his ring, then her lips. "And write me every day."

At the airport he had written down her address, kissed her goodbye, waved to her and shouted: "I'll meet the plane next Friday."

"I'll be on it," she called, and it wasn't until the plane was well on its way to Winnipeg that she remembered something. Her hand flew up to her mouth, brushing against the orchid pinned to her fur coat. Friday! January the seventh! She half rose in her seat.

"Are you feeling ill, Miss?" asked the tiny, dark-eyed stewardess.

"No . . . no. I'm all right." Lesia stared out of the window at the diamond-pricked darkness. Friday was their Ukrainian Christmas. She couldn't leave her parents on that day. They would be saddened.

She was still worrying about it when the plane taxied to a stop and the ramp was wheeled into position. Descending, she saw Fedor. She ran to him.

"Mother's not?" she said, then choked up.

Fedor hastened to reassure her. "She's had pneumonia. The sight of you will cure her."

"Why didn't they wire me sooner?"

"I had a time persuading your father to let me wire you."

"They knew I would come."

Fedor shrugged.

"I caught the first plane," she said defensively.

"I knew you would, luba," he said, smiling. "Now I'll get your luggage and drive you home."

As he drove Lesia studied his broad face with its heavy brows and strong nose. His hair was fair and his eyes were blue and candid. She had not seen him for twelve years, not since they had picked beets together. He had told her then that someday he was going to be a singer.

"How can you?" she had asked.

"I've saved money to study in New York." Then he had started singing and the beet pickers smiled, waved and worked with renewed energy.

Remembering, Lesia opened the car window and took a deep breath of the frosty air.

"You'll freeze your orchid," Fedor teased, "and your young man won't like that."

LESIA closed the window, drew off her glove and looked at Lawrie's ring. A tremor went through her. Would he love her enough to want

her for his wife if he knew all about her, she wondered.

"We've come a long way from the beet fields, luba," Fedor said, glancing at the star sapphire.

"Please, I never want to hear the word 'beets.' I'm done with that part of my life."

"With Lovenko too, I understand."

"Yes," she said tightly.

"Does your young man know about it?"

"No, and he won't unless . . ."

"Unless you tell him, luba, and you will, you know."

"Never! I thought you would understand, Fedor. Since childhood I've longed to be somebody and I won't let a little thing like a name hold me back."

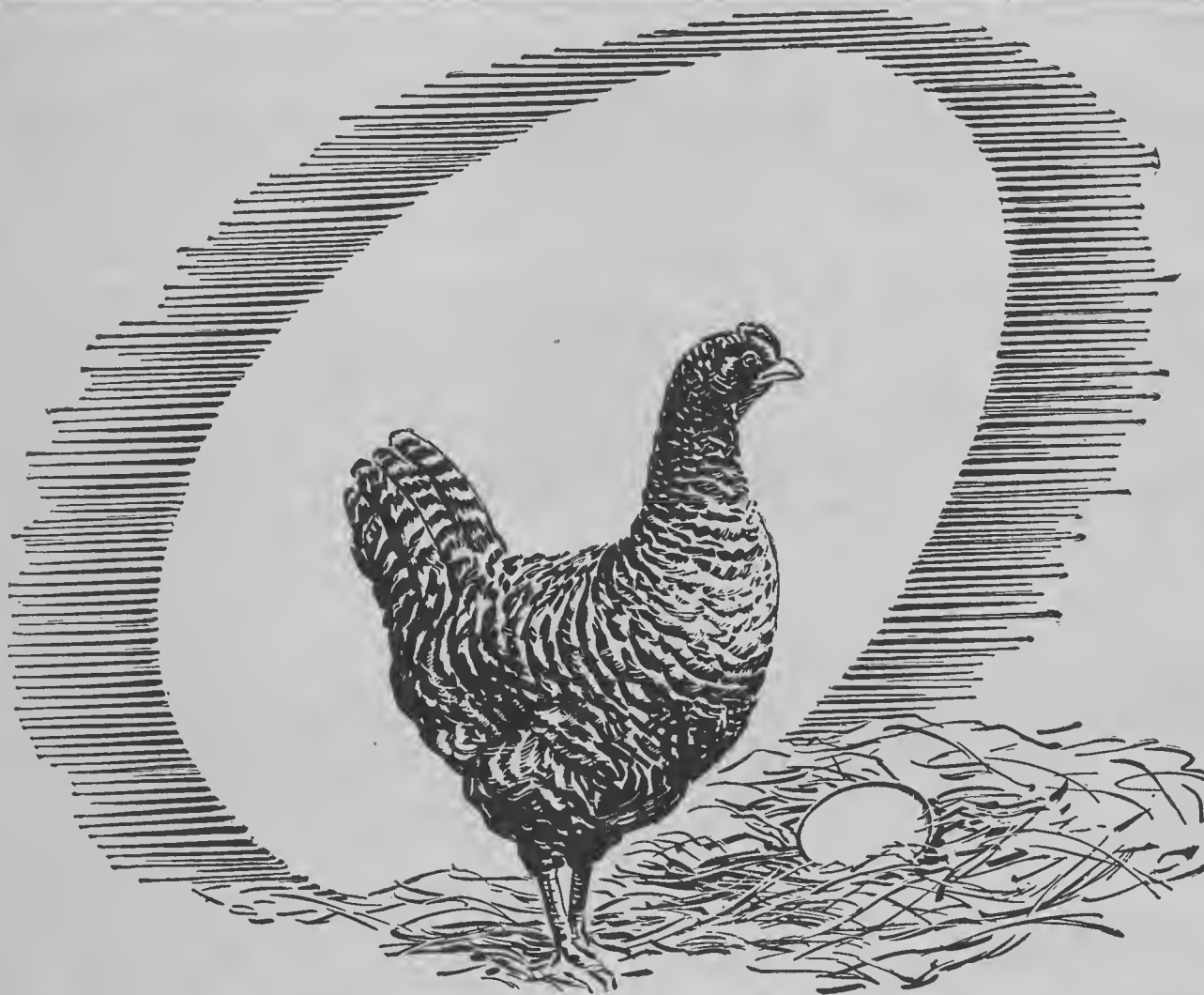
"Little thing?"

Lesia felt a tightening around her heart. A name wasn't a little thing. It could destroy her happiness if she let it. "Oh, why did I have to fall in love?" she thought, and sighed. Falling in love wasn't a thing planned. You were caught unawares, like a butterfly in a beautiful silver cobweb.

"What's in a name?" she asked glibly.

Fedor shrugged, his strong hands firm on the steering wheel. "Nothing perhaps, luba. You'd still be beautiful and sweet if you were called a cabbage."

Lesia gave a shaky laugh. "Thanks. Now let's talk about you."



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"There's little to tell. I've studied. Oh yes, the war and after it, plenty of hard labor. Now I'm singing the songs I love. I have to be back in New York by the end of the month."

"Everyone thinks you're wonderful," she said.

"And you, luba?"

"What do you care what I think?" Her misery made her voice sharp.

"You are a part of my people," he said, and she drew in her breath. "Ah yes, you are, even though you would deny it. That is why I care about what you think."

She felt suddenly humble. "I too think you're wonderful, Fedor. I am proud because the world is receiving

your great gift." Her eyes were misty on the narrow farms along the Red River.

"You too have a gift," he said, as the car rounded a curve and turned in a gate before a white, two-storeyed house with red trimmings, matching the geraniums in the window. He stopped the car and Lesia saw her father coming from the barn.

"Lesia came!" called Fedor.

Lesia ran into her father's arms. He hugged her, then held her away from him. "Such a fine lady," he said. "It can't be Lesia."

Tears smarted Lesia's eyes. "It's me, papa," she said, tenderly looking at the tall, rangy man with rugged feat-

ures and gentle blue eyes. Many white hairs showed in his black beard. "You should have wired me sooner."

"Mamma wouldn't let me," he said, leading the way to the kitchen door. "Mrs. Novak has been helping us."

Inside, Lesia took a deep breath of the air fragrant with fresh buns and coffee.

"Lesia, that you?" called her mother from the bedroom off the kitchen.

Lesia entered the room and saw her mother's pale face framed by blonde braids against the pillow. Then she was on her knees, her face on her mother's shoulder.

"There, there, luba, don't cry. I'm getting well." Her fingers trembled on

Lesia's hair. After a moment Lesia dried her tears, sat on the edge of the bed, and held her mother's hand.

"I'm just a big baby," she said. "But I've never seen you sick in bed except when the twins came."

"Stefka and Peter are at school, and I should be up getting the Christmas cooking ready." Her mother's smile was strong. "They've been talking about it for weeks."

At their age Lesia, too, had looked forward to the festive food. "Don't worry, Mamma," she said softly. "I'll see that they have a real Christmas dinner."

"You haven't forgotten how to cook our food, luba?"

"If so, you can tell me."

NOW, on Christmas Eve, Lesia was roused out of her recollections by a cry from the two at the window. "It's here. It's here. The Evening Star!"

Stefka and Peter turned their rosy faces toward Lesia, and once again she was a child with her brother Joseph at her side watching for the first glimpse of the Evening Star. Behind them their mother was saying: "The Evening Star on this Christmas Eve is to remind us of the star that guided the three wise men to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus." She had waited, as the twins waited now, for their father to appear in the doorway with his arms full of straw.

But today there was a delay. Lesia heard the sound of a car driving into the yard. It couldn't be Fedor! He was with papa. Mrs. Novak was helping mamma to the couch. The twins squeezed Lesia's hands, and jumped up and down with excitement. She heard voices and the door opened. Lesia's heart turned over. Lawrie was standing in the doorway with her father and Fedor.

"Lawrie," she whispered. "You . . . you . . ."

Then he was beside her, holding her hand. "I said I would come after you." There was a puzzled, questioning look in his grey eyes.

For a moment she clung to his hand, feeling light headed, then memory rushed back. Fighting to keep a tremor out of her voice she introduced him, conscious of her father's troubled eyes looking at her over his armload of straw. She shot a glance at Fedor, now dressed like a Cossack. Had he done this? Sent for Lawrie! Then she heard Lawrie speaking and knew she had done it herself.

"When I received Lesia's telegram, I hopped a plane. I had to see her at once."

"We are happy to have you with us, Mr. Bannon," Mrs. Lovenko said quickly. "We are just beginning our Ukrainian Christmas." Then she turned to Papa. "What are you waiting for?" she asked.

Mr. Lovenko looked from his wife to Lesia. "Yes, Papa," Lesia said gently, "what are you waiting for?"

Papa's sad eyes brightened. He dropped the straw on the floor. "Christ is born," he said, reverently.

"Glory be to Him," replied all, save Lawrie.

Then the twins flung themselves on the straw and spread it about the floor. Lesia took the candy and nuts and scattered them on the straw and the twins began a clucking noise.

"Kvok, kvok, sto kurk," they chanted, and Peter smiled up at

# 5 minutes from now



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Lawrie, "Cluck, cluck, may there be a hundred chickens."

"Thank you," said Lawrie, grateful for the translation.

Papa left the house and Mamma, being painfully careful about her English, explained that the straw not only symbolized the hay in the Christ Child's manger, but also the invitation to the family ancestor to be present in spirit.

Lesia watched his face, ready to stiffen at any sign of amusement. He was carefully studying her. His glance skimmed over the flower coronet, her black and red embroidered blouse, her velvet stole, then down to the red leather shoes. She resisted a childish impulse to pull off the flowers, the dress too. She turned abruptly and took a tablecloth from the cupboard.

"Maybe it's all for the best, luba," said Fedor, moving to her side.

Lesia shut her lips on a sharp retort, and Papa returned carrying a sheaf of wheat.

"The Dyded," cried the twins.  
 "The Old Man," explained Mamma. This was their way of inviting the most recent head of the family to be with them in spirit.

Papa put the sheaf in the place of honor by the old clock, and the family sank to their knees and sang the Lord's Prayer. At the end Lesia rose, her throat tight, determined that she would give the twins a happy Christmas. Later she would settle her own affairs. She shook out the tablecloth.

"Wait, the straw!" cried Peter.  
 The twins tossed bits of straw on the table. Lesia spread the cloth. She placed two loaves of kolachi, one on top of the other, and inserted a large wax candle in the upper one. Peter lit the candle, then turned off the lights except one by the stove.

"Yes, the kolachi is symbolic too," Mamma explained to Lawrie. "It symbolizes God's gifts. The wax candle reminds us that God gave us bees. Its light tells us that Christ is the guiding light of man."

Listening, Lesia was frightened of the emotions that swept through her. She pressed her hands against her face. Fedor came to her side, sniffing like a child at the food on the stove.

"Is that borsch and perohy that I smell?" he asked, then whispered, "Steady, luba. Take a deep breath."

Lesia gave him a waivering smile. "It is perohy with potatoes and cheese, with cabbage, prunes and apples." Confused and angry, she added, "I hope you choke on it."

"Not a chance," said Fedor. "Not even on the rice holupchi or the holupchi with buckwheat grits. I'll eat them all and still have room for mushrooms and herrings. I've been starved for our food."

"Set up the chairs," ordered Lesia, praying for strength to get through the meal without letting her parents see that she wished she were dead.

At last Papa was saying grace. Lesia put a bowl of kutya, its boiled wheat grains mixed with honey and ground poppy seed, in the center of the table. Papa dipped a wooden spoon into the kutya and tossed it into the air.

"Bee-swarm," cried the twins, trying to catch the falling grains so they would have luck with the harvest.

"Don't eat too much," warned Mamma, "or you won't have room for anything else."

As Lesia dipped up the borsch, Fedor led in the singing of a Christmas carol. Lesia moved as if in a dream as courses and carols followed one another, her eyes avoiding meeting Lawrie's. He wouldn't be rude, not to her family. But that did not mean that he wasn't despising her.

She wished he would leave just as soon as the meal was finished, but Fedor invited him to go with them to Midnight Mass. Walking the half mile to the church between the two men, she couldn't talk. Her love for Lawrie brought a pain to her throat that she tried to ease with her hand. Why did this have to happen to her? She wanted only to make him happy: to feel the

touch of his hand on her hair, his lips on hers, and hear him say, knowing everything, "Lesia, love, I'll be the proudest man if you will marry me."

She bit her lower lip. It was too late for wishes. Numbly she entered the church. At once a strange peace flowed through her. Approaching the altar was like coming out of a cavern of despair into the sunlight of hope. The candles were praying hands, drawing her forward.

"May the souls of our fathers rest in Heaven," Fedor said reverently, as he lit a candle before taking his seat.

The small church filled; the priest's voice rose and fell; Fedor sang. Lesia watched the faces of those listening to

his voice as if they were hearing music in their hearts.

"You have a great gift," Lawrie said, as they left the church and turned homeward. "You must be proud."

"It's not my gift, my friend," Fedor said. "It was given to me by my ancestors. It is part of their gift to my people, and to the people of my new land—Canada."

Before Lawrie could answer, young people surrounded them coaxing Fedor to go carolling with them to collect money for the church.

"Are you too tired to go, Lesia?" asked Fedor.

Lesia was tired in mind and body, but she did not want to go home, nor



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was she ready to talk with Lawrie. "Let's go," she said.

"And you, my friend?" asked Fedor, turning to Lawrie.

Lawrie shrugged. "I can sleep on the plane."

The singers went from house to house, but all Lesia could think of was Lawrie's words. It meant he was leaving. He would go out of her life, sliding into the past, even as the night passed away.

"This keeps up for three days," said Fedor, after turning over the silver that had been tossed into his cap by the people hearing the carols.

"How can they? I'm dead beat now," said Lawrie, with a tired grin, directed at Lesia, who was standing at her door.

"I'll drive you to your hotel," said Fedor.

"I want to talk to Lesia first."

"You're both too tired to talk tonight," said Fedor.

"Then I'll see you tomorrow, Lesia," Lawrie said.

"Yes," she replied, and went swiftly inside. A light had been left burning. She walked over to the painting of Easter eggs. Their intricate designs and color spun around like a top, whirling into Lesia Love shoes. She pressed her fingers against her eyelids. Again she looked at the painting. Slowly the realization came that her use of stitching, embroidery, cutaways, insets and a riot of colors made the Lesia Love shoes different. Unconsciously she had used Ukrainian designs, and with her flare for color combinations, had achieved something extraordinary.

Fedor had been right. She could not deny her inheritance, any more than

she could change the color of her eyes. It was the Lovenko in her that had put skill into her fingers, brought beauty to her designs. Now she knew that she no longer had any desire to deny her heritage. Neither would she deny her new world, a world in which she, a Canadian, had opportunity to create and achieve.

In bed, with the light out, she trembled with new awareness. She saw herself as Lawrie must see her: a girl without the courage to be honest. Now she had to admit that she had deceived him. He would not forgive her, or love her.

She tossed on her pillow and wept until sleep came.

**T**HE first thing she remembered when she wakened was that today she must return Lawrie's ring. Dressed in a fur coat over slacks, a babushka on her hair, she met him at the door.

"We're going for a walk," she said, noticing that he looked strained.

They followed a beaten path to a bench on an open space encircled by pine, oaks, and birches. Below them was the Red River, criss-crossed with ski tracks.

"I want to say goodbye to you here," she said as they sat down.

"Why goodbye?"

"I haven't been honest with you, Lawrie."

"What do you mean?"

Her helpless anger flooded back. "You know what I mean," she said tightly. "I'm a Ukrainian. 'Bohunk,' as some people call us."

A slow smile curved Lawrie's lips. "So that's why you've been putting me off."

"Of course. What else?"

He did not speak and she felt compassion for him. She tried to think of something to say to make it easy for him. He stood up and looked down at her.

"Tell me one thing, Lesia. Did you mean the words in your telegram? All my love?"

She saw his face through a mist of tears. "Yes . . . I love you . . . but there's my family."

"Family! That's it," said Lawrie, and took her hand and pulled her up to face him. "I've never had a family, Lesia. I never knew how much I missed one until yesterday."

She gave him a startled look. What was he trying to say?

He continued. "I've loved you because of your beauty and talent. I searched for the woman behind that talent. I never found it in the city. When I saw you among your family with Peter's and Stefka's hands in yours, and saw you preparing a meal just as any wife might in her own home, I found Lesia, the woman—not just the career girl, though I had already fallen in love with her." Lawrie's arms reached out and pulled her toward him. "Darling!"

"You mean . . ." Lesia's doubts were fading like mists before the morning sun, but her heart disbelieved her own happiness. ". . . it doesn't matter to you that I'm a . . ."

His kiss was sudden and strong upon her lips. They stood in long silent embrace. Words somehow had lost their importance. Lesia now knew that Lawrie loved her, and for herself alone. He raised his head and for long

moments they gazed into each other's eyes, silently asking and answering questions which their hearts understood. He laid his hand gently along her cheek and then tucked a flying lock of hair back under the edge of her babushka. His voice was husky and low. "Darling, you are a Canadian, as I am. You are mine and that's all that matters. We are getting married at once."

Catching both of his hands in hers, Lesia stood back, regarding him with a solemn, happy gaze. She had known that she loved Lawrie, and yet had been afraid of herself and of love. Her real self had sent the telegram, her subconscious mind bidding him to come and learn about the "other Lesia." No longer was she a divided person. Lawrie was right. She was a Canadian. Any special gifts she had through heritage, of mind or heart, would be fully and freely devoted to the man she loved and to her homeland, Canada. A dreamy smile spread across her face. Then, suddenly, she surprised herself by laughing aloud.

"Laughter, sweetheart? I like that," said Lawrie.

"I . . . I just remembered that Ukrainian Papas expect to be asked for their daughter's hand in marriage," said Lesia with dancing, bright eyes.

"I'll ask him now," said Lawrie, joining in her laughter. Then with a change to a serious tone, "And I'll tell him that we will bring our children back each year for the celebration of the Ukrainian Christmas. Together we'll honor our ancestors. Our children will watch for the rise of the Evening Star that guided the Wise Men in their search for the Holy Child."

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# The Countrywoman

THIS month we have pleasure in presenting for the entertainment of our readers, contributions from two writers, who already have made a place for themselves, as authors of successful books based on Canadian themes.

Olive Knox of Winnipeg has had four books published: *By Paddle and Saddle* (Macmillans, 1943); *Red River Shadows* (Macmillans, 1948); *Little Giant* (Ryerson Press, 1951), and *Black Falcon* (Ryerson Press, 1954). The last two are illustrated by line drawings by Clarence Tillenius, an artist whose work is familiar to our readers.

With the exception of *Red River Shadows*, a historical romance written against a background of early days in the Red River settlement and of interest to adult readers, Olive Knox has written for juveniles. Two provinces, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, have placed *By Paddle and Saddle* and *Black Falcon* on required lists of supplementary reading for children in Grades V to VIII.

Marjorie Freeman Campbell chose to write a biography of Howard Holbrook, a backwoods Ontario boy with a keen mind, a great hunger for learning, and a wonderful capacity for work. Her book, *Holbrook of the San*, tells the story of his amazing progress through the years along with the remarkable progress of the treatment of tuberculosis, until the crowning day in 1951, when the Holbrook Pavilion in Hamilton, the latest word in treatment centers for tuberculosis children, was formally opened and named after him.

In October, 1953, Marjorie Freeman Campbell set off for a trip around the world on a 15,000-ton freighter *Flying Enterprise II*, under Captain Henrik Kurt Carlson, famous for his efforts to stay with his earlier ship, sinking in the Atlantic. Mrs. Campbell's journey took her to 15 countries and to 30 ports and cities. Five marvellous months! A new wealth of impressions, stories of places and people to share with others!

## St. Nicholas and Tradition

THERE is a wealth of tradition behind many of our colorful Christmas customs. They come from many lands, where originally they had distinctive features. Through written stories and the movement of people, they have spread. We, on this continent, have inherited the folk ways of many peoples. We have adopted festive customs which pleased us and seemed well suited to our purposes.

The custom of hanging up stockings to receive gifts is said to have originated in the North of England. It adds a pretty touch of mystery to our family Christmas giving.

From earliest times the tree has been the object of worship of all races. The Christmas tree is comparatively recent, its origin being in Germany. It was introduced into England during the reign of Queen Victoria.

The origin of wax tapers has been traced back to the Roman Saturnalia, at which it was customary to give lighted candles as presents. Candles were regarded as symbolical of the new birth of the sun, which typified the renewal of life.

St. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra, in Lycia, a country on the south coast of Asia Minor. He was born about 275 A.D. and died about 343 A.D. and was a saint honored on the 6th of December by the Greeks and Latins. "His cult is as celebrated as his history is obscure," the *Encyclopedia Britannica* tells us. "In the West, the name of St. Nicholas appears in the 9th century . . . There are nearly 400 churches in England dedicated to St. Nicholas. He was the patron Saint of Russia; the special protector of children, scholars, merchants and sailors, and is invoked by travellers against robbers . . . The legend of his surreptitious bestowal of dowries upon three daughters of an impoverished citizen is said to have originated the old custom of giving presents in secret on the Eve of St. Nicholas Day—subsequently transferred to Christmas Eve. Hence the association of Christmas with Santa Claus

## A visitor from Holland stirs interest in Christmas celebrations and the role of St. Nicholas in this and other lands

by AMY J. ROE



Left to right: Miss Janna Brink, St. Nicholas in traditional bishop's costume, a young passenger, Black Peter and Master of the S.S. Groote Beer.

—an American corruption of the Dutch form of the custom, being brought to America by early Dutch settlers." His name has varied: Kriss Kringle (Germany), St. Nicholas and Santa Claus.

\* \* \*

During recent weeks a visitor, Miss Janna Brink, national secretary of The Netherlands Country Women's Association, stopped off in our city, on a trip that was to take her across Canada. She had brought with her twelve complete costumes of the style worn by St. Nicholas in Holland. It was her intention to visit a number of centers, where Dutch people live in Canada and to leave one costume in each province of Canada. The photograph here shown was taken aboard the Holland-America Line S.S. Groote Beer, which brought Miss Brink across the Atlantic, on its arrival at Montreal on October 23.

Great interest is taken by the people of The Netherlands in Canada. Many have emigrated to this country. Those who remain at home are concerned as to how their kinsfolk are faring in their new homeland, their achievements and their trials. Frequently special visitors, representative of some larger official group are sent out to report upon the happiness or discontent of the Dutch settlers in Canada. Miss Brink said in interview that some of the newcomers to this land are rather unhappy about the commercialism of Christmas in this country, the close mingling of Santa Claus with Christmas celebrations. At home she said there is a distinct separation of St. Nicholas Eve celebration both in actual time and in spirit from the keeping of Christmas as a Holy Day.

Briefly: the Dutch version is that St. Nicholas arrives on a ship from Spain and brings along his helper—a black boy, called Peter, who carries a sack over his shoulder and a birch rod in his hand. The latter is clad in puffed velvet breeches and jacket and the plumed beret of 16th century Spain. He hovers around, taking care of his master.

St. Nicholas—or "Sinterklass" as he has always been called in The Netherlands, usually arrives in most of Holland's towns and cities on the last Saturday of November. The venerable Saint with his flowing white beard, resplendent in his traditional

bishop's attire, a scarlet mantle and with mitre and crosier rides down the ship's gangplank, seated on a proud white steed. In Amsterdam, the Mayor in his official dress, complete with silver chain of office, is the first Dutch citizen to greet him. Then amid cheers from thousands of children and adults and with all the church bells ringing, the parade moves off under the escort of police and with an accompanying brass band providing music. The Mayor and other civic dignitaries follow St. Nicholas mounted on his steed, in cars preceding countless beautifully decorated floats, a cavalcade of students and more brass bands.

About a week before St. Nicholas Eve, December 5, when the Dutch traditionally celebrate the birthday of the old Saint, all Holland suddenly appears to go haywire, Miss Brink said. Young and old from all walks of life, from all denominations, start acting mysteriously, shutting themselves in their rooms, slamming doors in other people's faces, trying to compose rhymes.

Every family in Holland in some manner or form celebrates the old Bishop and his servant Black Peter, with a party, a small get-together or by going to someone else's house to celebrate. There may be loads of presents or just a few—tables laden with traditional candies and cookies, or just a pot of hot chocolate. The spirit of St. Nicholas is everywhere.

Because St. Nicholas is a celebration of the light-hearted spirit and there is such a joyous and universal expression of that spirit, Christmas Day when it arrives, is marked as one with deeper implications, quietly in a manner to renew and strengthen home, family and church ties.

Our gratitude goes out to Janna Brink and the Associated Country Women of The Netherlands for reminding us in Canada of the traditional Dutch manner in marking these two festivals in distinctive ways.

## Festive Window Touches

YOU can "paint" windows in your house or a hall to resemble stained glass; write greetings in large letters on a mirror or a window; decorate with a Christmas scene which will sparkle under the lights. This can be accomplished by the application of a mixture of epsom salts and water, or with the aid of a "bomb" which sprays synthetic snow.

Choose a simple design with fairly large areas of color and with no fine lines. First prepare simple cut-outs, the size to be used. You need a separate one for each area of color. These are used as stencils for colors in the design, hence the need for simplicity. Ideas for suitable motifs and designs will occur to you: a winter scene, possibly a church or a house with lighted windows; a tree, angels, stars.

For the solution, make a thick mixture of epsom salts and water. To make it adhere to the glass more readily, add a little wood alcohol, if available. Divide the solution into as many portions as the colors you want, in proportion to the amount of each color used. To the various lots add water color or vegetable dye of the desired hue.

Before the "painting" process begins, cover surrounding furniture, drapes, floor and remaining glass with newspaper or other covering. Place the cut-out stencil against the window. The glass should show through, where you wish to apply the color. Then, with one-inch or inch-and-a-half paint brush, dab on the solution. Allow each color to dry, before applying another.

Aerosol "bombs" of synthetic snow are now available in many hardware and department stores. They come with contents in red, green, pink and blue as well as white. When the spray is blown on, at a distance of at least 24 inches, a fluffy snowlike appearance is achieved. Use the stencil as in the brush method and again choose only designs with large and simple color areas. For writing, use the spray from within an inch of the surface. Allow at least five minutes for drying.



Wall from which St. Paul was lowered in a basket to escape pursuers.

UP and up, round and round the highway from Beirut to Damascus climbed through the Lebanon Mountains. Past olive groves and roadside sycamores and poplars it mounted. Past date palms heavy with fruit hanging in red clusters below each crown of leaves. Past stone fences walling off the arid rocky hillsides. Up and up in hairpin turns.

Behind and below, cupped between the grey-green slopes and the blue Mediterranean, Beirut's buildings gleamed in the crisp December sun, as white as the snow-covered peaks of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains ahead that lay between us and Damascus. As far back as I can remember, even as a child, the name Damascus symbolized in my mind the romance of the East.

Damascene blades, Damascus cloth handloomed and heavy with gold and silver threads; mysterious bazaars spiced with strange and exotic scents,

black-veiled women and white-robed men, camel caravans and tiny overburdened donkeys, Saladin and the Crusaders, the early persecuted Christian Church and forbidden mosques from whose minarets at sundown the chant of the Muezzin summoned the Faithful to evening prayer: for this composite picture, built up in early impressionable years, I was indebted equally to the Bible, school histories, romantic novels of the Crusades, and the motion picture industry with special mention of Marlene Deitrich in *The Sheik*.

How much was true? How much false? How much of the old remained to the present? When, in New York, I found on the day of sailing that I might be able to drive the seventy-odd miles over the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon Mountains from Beirut to Damascus and answer these questions for myself, I nearly missed the boat in my effort to obtain a visa.

# Damascus

*The journey over the road to Damascus, the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, was for me a re-turning of old pages of Bible pictures—memories of Crusader tales—a dream realized in modern days*

by MARJORIE FREEMAN CAMPBELL

Photos by the author.

Nothing had seemed too much trouble. Somehow I had persuaded the courteous Syrian Consul-General into preparing the necessary papers—the clerk of the Embassy having left for the night. Then with the precious document safe in my passport I had enveigled a pessimistic New York cabby into attempting a mad dash across Manhattan to the Isbrandtsen pier in Brooklyn to reach the *Flying Enterprise II*, with Captain Henrik Kurt Carlsen in charge, before sailing time.

Now, almost a month later, here I was on the road to Damascus with two American fellow passengers of the *Enterprise II*, which lay in Beirut Harbor. Beside me our driver Saleh, pronounced Solly, a short, plump, round-faced individual with the seemingly happy disposition of a child, beamed ingratiatingly as he answered questions. The accuracy of his answers, it soon became apparent, did not trouble Solly's curly black head; the important thing was never to be caught short without an answer.

But he was sympathetic and quick to meet one's mood. "You like?" he grinned approvingly, indicating the long dun flanks of the mountains and the terraced valley slopes set out with fig trees and vineyards and what looked like the bright gold of hops.

Indeed I liked the view. The journey to Damascus was a trip into Bible history. Here on the arid stony hillsides were the grazing flocks of sheep and dark-brown silky haired goats of childhood Bible pictures. Over the dry hills marched the remembered flat-topped and twisted white pines, and the querulous camels we stopped to

photograph were laden with dates and led by a turbaned, hawk-nosed man on a diminutive donkey were just as I had always pictured them.

When the road topped the Lebanon and later the Anti-Lebanon Mountains we had to close the car windows against the cold. The temperature in Damascus, at the foot of the latter range, was pleasantly moderate.

The oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, Damascus lies on the edge of the Syrian Desert in a luxuriant oasis formed by the seven streams of the Barada River which irrigate the city's famous gardens and orchards. As capital of Syria which lies at the crossroads of three continents, Damascus has known the conquering armies of Greek, Roman, Arab, Crusader and Turk. In Biblical times it was a noted capital which played its part in the wars of Egypt and Babylon.

Bible students will recognize that it was "on the road to Damascus" that St. Paul was converted to the Christian faith. Within the city on the "Street which is called Straight" the wall still stands from which he was lowered in a basket to escape his pursuers. In 2,000 years the world has changed little for today beneath the shimmering poplars of the same thoroughfare, not a stone's throw away, cluster the pathetic shelters of Arab refugees, fleeing persecution in modern days.

"Pictures here only from the car," decreed the hawk-nosed, dark-skinned guide Solly had added to the party in Damascus. "And be quick. Quick!"

Solly shrugged placatingly. "No like pictures," he explained.

(Please turn to page 40)



Modern street scenes in Damascus. Beyond inner gate in background lies crowded main shopping street. Right: Arab refugee camp along "the Street Called Straight."



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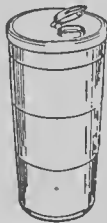
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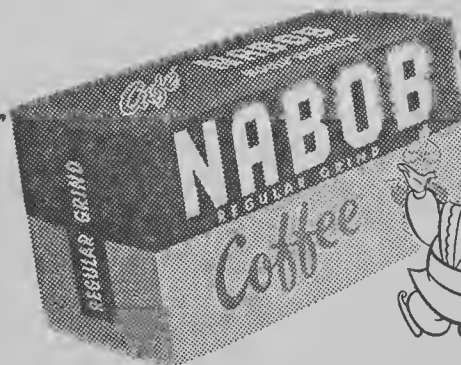
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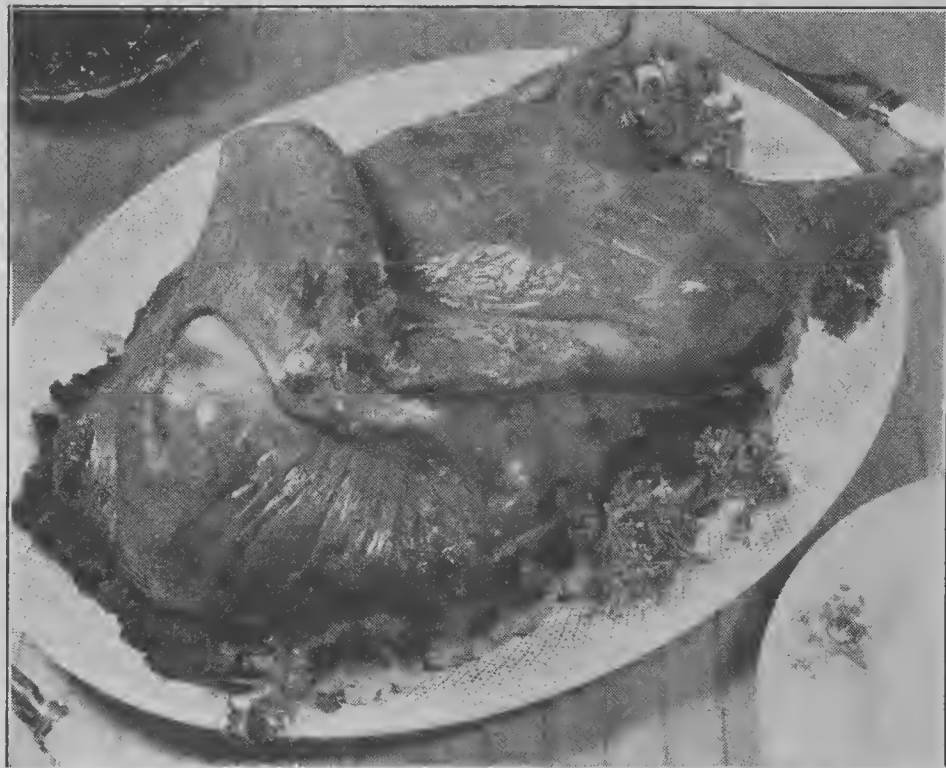
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# Half a Turkey

*gives a good selection of light and dark meat for a smaller family*

by LILLIAN VIGRASS



Roast turkey—first choice for the festive season.

**M**ANY families insist on a turkey dinner for that extra special Christmas or New Year's dinner. If the gathering is not large enough to warrant a full-sized turkey, half a turkey, roasted to a golden brown, with stuffing, gravy and all the trimmings, makes a fine meal.

You have the same selection of light and dark meat as with the full-sized bird. Yet you won't have the difficulty of trying to fit the monstrous fellow in the roasting pan or into the oven. It cuts down on the amount of leftovers to be used within the next week and, if a friend or neighbor goes in on the plan, taking over the other half of the bird, it means a smaller investment in meat for that all-important meal.

Cut—or have the butcher cut—the drawn bird in half lengthwise through center back and breast bone. Cut in half, too, the neck and giblets. Each part then consists of leg, wing, breast and back meat, and part of the trimmings.

Three-quarters to one pound purchased weight makes a generous serving, with enough left over for a meal of leftovers. For stuffing allow a cup of bread cubes per pound of bird and plan on a roasting time of 25 to 30 minutes per pound, with a half hour left for gravy making and serving.

Clean the half bird in the usual way. Wash and dry well. In order to prepare it for the oven tie the leg to the tail with white cord then fasten the wing flat to the breast meat by means of a long metal skewer. Rub the cut side of the bird with salt.

With toothpicks, fasten the freshly cut skin to the breast meat. Place the half bird, skin side up, on a rack in the roasting pan and brush with melted fat. Roast the bird in a moderate oven of 325° F. until it is half done.

If the fowl seems to dry out when baked in an uncovered roaster it may be that the oven is kept at too high a temperature. In other cases there is not enough fat on the bird for self-basting. Basting with fat or drippings, as necessary, during roasting will help. An

easier method is to cover the bird loosely with aluminum foil until the last half hour of roasting or to cover with several thicknesses of cheesecloth that has been dipped in melted fat.

While the bird cooks make the stuffing. When half done remove it from the oven, set the turkey to one side and place a double layer of waxed paper on the rack. Mound the stuffing on the paper in such a way that it will fit under the bird.

Place the turkey over the mounded dressing and work it well down. Trim away the waxed paper about one inch from the edge of the bird and return the roaster to the oven.

### Bread Stuffing

¼ c. diced onion	½ tsp. pepper
1 c. diced celery	1 tsp. crumbled sage
¾ c. melted butter	2 c. water
8 c. dry bread cubes	2 bouillon cubes
2 tsp. salt	

Brown onion and celery in butter in heavy skillet. Combine bread cubes and seasonings. Pour over broth made of bouillon cubes and water. Stir lightly.

### Sausage Stuffing

1 lb. pork sausage	2 tsp. salt
4 large tart apples	1 T. baking powder
½ c. chopped celery	8 c. bread cubes
½ c. milk	

Stir and cook sausage meat in skillet until it is cooked and lightly browned. Core and chop apples into ½-inch pieces. Combine all ingredients and mix.

### Turkey Gravy

¾ c. turkey drippings	Finely chopped cooked giblets
¾ c. flour	1 T. salt
6 c. liquid	½ tsp. pepper

Pour drippings from pan in which turkey was roasted, leaving brown bits behind. Put ¾ c. drippings in skillet. Add flour, mix well and brown slightly. Measure broth from cooked giblets, add to roasting pan and cook up browned bits, working from bottom and sides of pan with large fork or pancake turner. Gradually add this and remaining liquid, which may be milk or water to mixture in skillet stirring constantly with pancake turner to make smooth gravy. Add giblets, salt and pepper and other seasonings if desired.



## ... and All the Trimmings

BY planning ahead, a good part of the turkey dinner can be prepared in advance, leaving the homemaker free to spend time with family and friends during the holiday.

The cranberries can be cooked several weeks in advance and frozen or sealed in jars and stored in a cool place. The jellied salad is best prepared a day ahead and placed in the refrigerator and a light fruit juice or spiced tomato juice can be cooked a day or two ahead of time then kept chilled until serving time.

One of the family will probably be willing to help prepare the vegetables the morning of the big day. For contrast in flavor and color we suggest fluffy mashed potatoes, buttered green beans and mashed turnips topped with a cube of butter. With turkey, dressing and rich brown gravy it is a main course fit for any occasion.

If anyone can still eat, an old-fashioned Christmas pudding with hard sauce for dessert will complete the meal. Or if you prefer to serve a light dessert now, bring out the plum pudding later on in the day. Serve it with coffee and, of course, milk for the children.

### Tomato Juice Cocktail

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 20-oz. can tomato juice | 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 1 T. pickling spice       | ½ tsp. salt                 |
| 2 T. lemon juice          |                             |

Heat tomato juice, salt and spice together. Simmer 10 minutes. Chill, strain, add lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce. Serve chilled.

### Whole Cranberry Sauce

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 4 c. cranberries | ½ tsp. salt        |
| 2 c. sugar       | ¼ c. boiling water |

Wash and pick over cranberries. Combine with sugar and salt in deep saucepan. Add boiling water, cover and boil 5 minutes. Remove from heat, let stand 5 minutes. Then return to heat and boil another 5 minutes.

### Creamy Fudge

- |                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 2 c. sugar                            | Dash salt      |
| 2 1-oz. squares unsweetened chocolate | 2 T. butter    |
|                                       | ¾ c. milk      |
|                                       | 1 tsp. vanilla |

Place all ingredients but vanilla in a 2-quart kettle. Stir well and heat slowly. Scrape sugar from sides of kettle and stir so chocolate won't stick. Cover and continue to heat slowly to boiling. Remove cover. Stir again. Boil until candy thermometer shows 233° F. or until it forms a soft ball in cold water. Set to cool in

large pan water. *Do not stir.* Cool until film shows over top of fudge and it feels cool to touch. Add vanilla and beat with wooden spoon. As soon as it begins to look dull colored it is ready to pour. Shape into small round patties by dropping by spoonfuls on table and swirling with a knife. Work quickly.

### English Plum Pudding

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ¾ lb. chopped suet     | ¼ lb. blanched almonds |
| 1 lb. brown sugar      | 1 c. crushed pineapple |
| 1 lb. currants         |                        |
| 1 lb. sultanas         | ½ tsp. cloves          |
| 1 lb. dark raisins     | 1 tsp. nutmeg          |
| ½ lb. mixed peel       | 1 tsp. cinnamon        |
| ¼ lb. citron peel      | 3 tsp. baking powder   |
| ¼ lb. candied cherries | 8 eggs                 |
| 4 c. sifted flour      | 1½ tsp. salt           |

Cut up cherries and almonds. Add to remainder of fruit. Flour well. Sift remaining flour with baking powder, salt and spices. Beat eggs, add sugar and blend well. Add flour and suet, then pineapple, which has been drained. Add fruit then blend in enough milk to make a very soft dough. Put into pudding cloths, being careful not to fill too full. They swell as they cook. Tie very securely and drop into a kettle of boiling water. Do not allow water to come up near where tied. Boil 5 to 7 hours depending on the size of the pudding. To serve reheat by steaming. More nuts may be added or a little orange peel, if desired.

### Fruitcake Dessert

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1½ c. seeded raisins | 2 tsp. cinnamon   |
| 1½ c. chopped dates  | 1 tsp. cloves   |
| 2 c. sugar           | 1 c. chopped walnuts  |
| 2 c. boiling water   | 3 oz. each of candied orange peel, lemon peel, pineapple, citron and cherries |
| ½ c. shortening      |   |
| 3 c. flour           |   |
| 1 tsp. salt          |   |
| 1 tsp. soda          |   |

Combine raisins, dates, sugar, water and shortening. Cook over low heat 20 minutes. Cool. Add sifted dry ingredients. Add nuts and fruits. Bake in greased 7½ by 12-inch pan at 325° F. for 1½ hours. Serve with whipped cream.

### Jellied Christmas Stars

- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 pkg. lime jelly                 | 1 T. vinegar              |
| 1 c. boiling water                | ½ tsp. peppermint extract |
| 1 c. unsweetened grapefruit juice | ½ tsp. salt               |

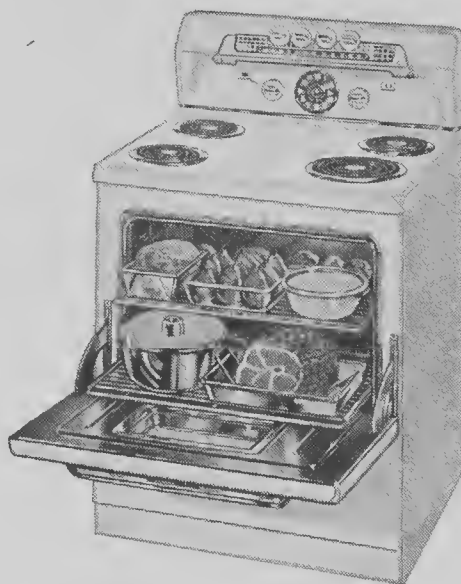
Dissolve jelly powder in boiling water, add grapefruit juice and vinegar. Add seasonings. Pour into individual star-shaped molds and set in refrigerator. Unmold, decorate with mint leaves and maraschino cherries. Serve with salad dressing dusted with paprika.

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A fellow passenger poses on a talkative camel on the Lebanon Mountains.

## Damascus

Continued from page 36

Scarcely had the car halted, when shabbily robed figures began to drift across the road toward us. The guide snapped an order at Solly and we were on the move again.

In the "souks," or business streets, where people crowded thickly, our cameras were also frowned upon. Yet, strangely to us, we were permitted to move freely throughout the city's mosques and encouraged to take pictures, even of interiors. Our only concession to Islam, observed by the Faithful themselves, was the removal of shoes within the mosque.

Of the many souks, the covered Souk Hamidiyeh is the main shopping artery of the city. A narrow, congested thoroughfare — darkened by an overhead arched roof of corroding metal — the street is lined on both sides with tiny, dimly lighted, open-face shops where turbaned merchants sit cross-legged fashioning their wares. Connecting it to other parallel souks runs a maze of side alleys housing bazaars, each crowded from floor to ceiling with its specialty: gold and silverwork; rugs and carpets; silks and piece goods; spices and sweetmeats; Arab gowns, cloaks and head-dresses; leather goods. One of the most picturesque was the dim winding souk where the makers of harness and fittings for camels, horses and donkeys congregated, their craftsmanship varying from magnificent saddles to colorful plaited cords, tassels and bindings.

In Souk Hamidiyeh we threaded our way amongst crowding donkeys, camels, dogs and goats, bicycles, honking motor cars and crying, ear-piercing street vendors. We were jostled by women in transparent black saris with their faces concealed behind a cloth grating, women in saris in peach, lime green and buttercup yellow; by children in little of anything; by men in every garb under the sun from a sheik's robes and the white man's tropical standard of white shorts and shirt, white knee socks and black shoes to the native male's standard long white or colored nightgown which, if desired, can be gathered up between the legs and ingeniously knotted into baggy trousers.

Today, the new walks with the old, in Damascus. Railway and airline supersede caravan routes; modern hotels supplant ancient khans. Yet the

old remains: the House of Ananias; the earliest Christian Church, dug out of the living rock underground with its secret underground escape passage. Here is the tomb of Saladin who finally defeated the Crusaders and restored the Holy Land to Islam.

In the great Omayyad Mosque the history of Damascus lies written. Once a Roman temple dedicated to Jupiter, rebuilt as a basilica to St. John whose tomb it contains, it is today one of the largest and most beautiful Mohammedan mosques in the world. Its extensive interior is carpeted with 3,000 full-size Persian rugs, the gifts of the Faithful.



Marjorie Freeman Campbell

MARJORIE Freeman Campbell was Ontario born, of U.E.L. stock. She was educated at Hamilton, where she later married and raised a family of three children, two daughters, and one son who was killed in action in Sicily while attached as a Flying Officer with the Coastal Command to the 221 Malta Squadron. She has been prominent in various organizations including: Canadian Authors' Association, Canadian Women's Press Club, Canadian Cancer Society.

She is the author of two Ryerson Poetry Chapbooks: *Merry-Go-Round* (1946), and *High On A Hill* (1949). In the December 1952 issue of *The Country Guide* appeared one of her short stories: *The Red Comet*. In 1953 Ryerson Press published her book *Holbrook Of The San* — the life story of a doctor who became head of the greatest tuberculosis sanitarium in the British Commonwealth.

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# Christmas - - Is Memory Time

*Bouquet of contributed recollections from our readers*

CHRISTMAS is memory time. A time when we rummage through our scrapbook of old thoughts and bygone experiences, bring them out and discover—to our astonishment—that they are almost as good as new. Some persons' memories are all of one home, one family and one heart. They are the lucky ones who have been able to stay put throughout the years. For them, memories must be extra tender and sweet.

But there are others who have careened around the world, stopping here and there, who find themselves in a different place as each Christmas rolls around. For some time now I have been more or less anchored to the same prairie town. But at Christmas I find my thoughts roaming to other Yuletides in other cities . . .

I remember a California Christmas when, to my wonder, I wore a white embroidered dress and had my picture taken out-of-doors, just to show the shivering natives back home how warm it could be in California—sometimes! Except for the novelty of it, I didn't really like that unseasonable climate. I longed desperately for the crisp white streets of my prairie home, sparkled over with miniature sequins where the evening street lights shone. That, meant Christmas for me!

Then there was the Christmas at grandmother's in Victoria. A wet, drizzly Christmas, that no amount of family gatherings or charades or the special gingersnaps that Grandma made for the small fry could make seem real to me. For where, in that town, with its green hedges and dripping trees could you take new ice skates to try? Back home there were corner lots for neighborhood rinks, back fences gave support for sleigh slides or the river banks providing perfect toboggan runs. Now that was Christmas with fun and adventure!

My loyalty and devotion took something of a beating, during my years in England. Somehow there, in spite of the uncertain vagaries of the weather, when Christmas might be anything from mild and sunny to foggy and deep in snowdrifts. In spite of this I sensed the Christmas spirit more keenly there, than anywhere else I had ever been. Dickens has drawn English characters who so beautifully typify the Christmas spirit. He merely interpreted what he found all over the country—and what we should find all over the world, that warm-hearted hospitable attitude that forgets the gift in remembering the giver. In our hearts we all echo Tiny Tim's words, "God bless us everyone!" —Dorothy Garbutt.

CHRISTMAS, 1943, came to a troubled world. Many women in Canada found their thoughts straying to loved ones overseas serving in some theatre of war. Our two sons were in Italy and although I did not know it at the time, engaged in that life and death struggle at Artona.

A week before Christmas my teenage daughters, Jean and Carol, had

marked the spruce in the bushlot they wanted to cut for the house. We hitched the team to the sleigh and went after it, as is our yearly custom. Even the horses seemed to join in the fun for they tossed their heads, making the bells on the harness ring out in the clear frosty air. We set the tree up in the living room and soon it was gay with Christmas decorations. All that week we engaged in the usual festive preparations and there was much laughter and fun among the young people.

If my heart was sad I did not allow its sadness to show. If my husband found the running of the farm without the boys a heavy load, he did not complain. Christmas Day seemed to follow the pattern of the past ones. We exchanged gifts and had friends in. For some unknown reason I could not tear my thoughts away from our youngest son overseas. He seemed so near to me all day. I looked out of the kitchen window over the fields where he used to hunt rabbits. I could almost see his sturdy figure coming up the lane. A week later the telegram came. He had been killed in action on Christmas Day.

I have since visited the Canadian Cemetery at Morrow River where so many boys who fought at Artona are buried! Slowly I walked between the rows of crosses, now replaced by headstones, and thought of the heartache of so many mothers and wives. I lingered, torn with grief of having to leave him on that lonely wind-swept hill.

Every Christmas Day I go back in spirit to that Italian hillside where a small part of me is buried.—Edith G. Binet.

IN my childhood days, Christmas preparations started a week before the big day. Mother got out the ingredients for her famous plum loaves and a large crock of mincemeat.

We children gathered round to seed the raisins, a task we did gladly. Many a raisin was popped into our mouths. Our mother was an understanding person and she never supervised the seeding process very closely. The seeding of raisins was one of the rituals of Christmas preparations, something that children miss today.

Ours was a large family and the wolf always seemed to hover not far from our door. Yet mother always managed to make Christmas a special occasion, with gifts for all, often made by her dear hands. As I grew older, it was a deep regret to me that I had no gifts to give. There were no means whereby a young girl could make extra money. Baby-sitting was unheard of, for there were either a grandmother or a maiden aunt on call.

My book of memories reveals many happy Christmas seasons. But the one that stands out as being more special than any other, was the holiday season I went home with gifts for all the family.

(Please turn to page 45)



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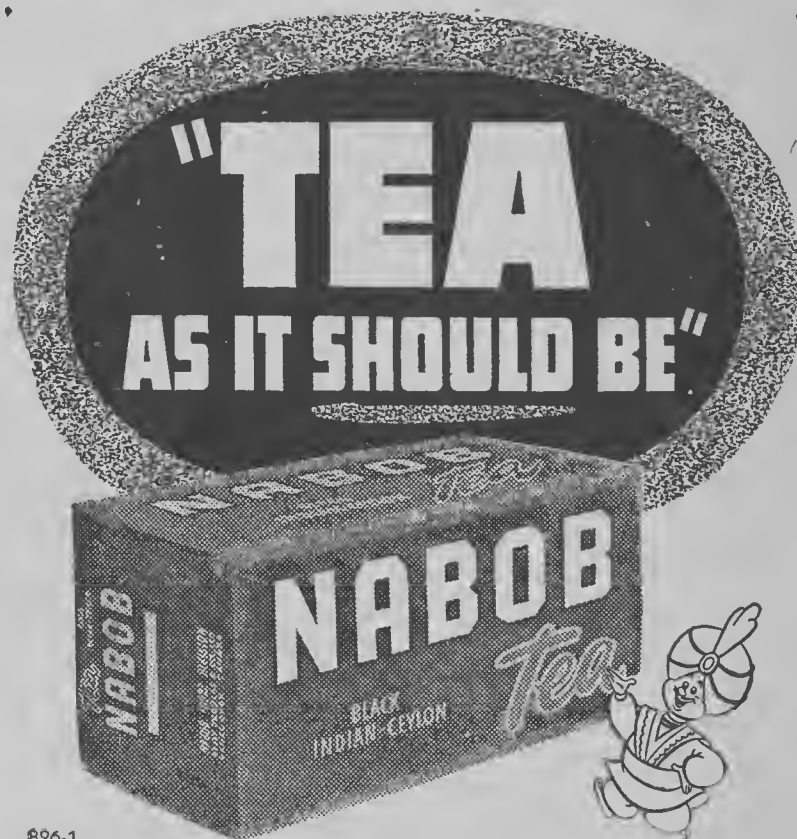
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# The Full Basket

WHEN I walked along by Mrs. Bingham's house, she called to me and asked would I do her a little favor. I told her, "of course," so she ran back in the house and came out with a basket and handed it to me across the yard fence.

"I would like for you to take this basket to Mr. Chumley," she said. This was Christmas morning, and I could smell the roast turkey, the cranberry sauce, and mincemeat pies. Nothing smells so good as a full lunch basket on a crisp December day.

As I walked along with the basket, I remembered things about old Mr. Chumley. I remembered the road that passed by his house, and how it seemed to widen and get friendly, and how the old man would wait by the fence and hand apples to us school children across the old rail fence.

I remembered now that old Mrs. Chumley was dead, and that Mr. Chumley lived alone. I remembered hearing my mother once speak of how hungry men would get for women's cooking, and things like that.

When I got there and knocked on the door, I heard him say, "Come in." And anybody could tell from the sound of the old man's voice that he meant it and was glad somebody was coming.

When I went in, he was in his big chair by a smoldering log fire with a big old book on his knees. In fact, we children of the neighborhood thought of books when we thought of old Mr. Chumley, for he had been a school teacher before our day and time.

"That lunch basket," he said. "Betty Bingham sent that . . ."

I handed the basket to him and said, "Yes, sir, she did."

For a few minutes he sat there with his hand resting on the handle of the basket, and set his eyes on the little blue blazes that were spewing from the ends of the hickory sticks on the fire.

Then he laid out the vittles on the little center table there in the middle of the room. I thought it was the prettiest little table; it seemed to be kind of old and drowsy with dreams and moldy with memories, for it had a crippled leg and a drawer that sagged, and the varnish was cracked and peeled.

As old Mr. Chumley laid out the roast turkey sandwiches, he spoke.

"It's like Betty Bingham to do this," he said. "Betty came to school to me—a long time ago, but I can see her yet. I can see her that day. She wore a pretty pink pinafore dress. I remember I had assigned papers for the history class. I asked the boys and girls to prepare a paper on some character they admired most of all.

"In the history class that day, I asked the boys and girls to stand and read their papers. Such nice papers they had prepared. Some of the boys wrote about George Washington, some about David Crockett and Buffalo Bill. One wrote about how he would like to have been Abraham Lincoln and freed the slaves and made the great speech on the battlefield of Gettysburg that day.

"One girl wrote how she would like to have been Jenny Lind and made people laugh and cry with her songs . . .

"But Betty Bingham . . ."

HERE old Mr. Chumley got up and told me to wait a minute, and he went slowly up the stair steps. After a few minutes, he came back down, and had in his shaky hand some sheets of aged and yellowed paper.

He sat back down in his big chair.

"This," he said, "is the paper Betty Bingham read that day. I asked her if I could have it, and I have kept it through all the years—a kind of precious thing from the days when the children came to school to me . . ."

As he unfolded the little manuscript, I could see it was from a school pad, the cheap, pulp paper with



G. COLLINS

the dim blue lines, and then the old man adjusted his glasses and read:

"I would rather have been a woman that packed a lunch basket for a boy one time. I don't know her name. I don't reckon anybody does. For I guess the historians don't ever write down much about women that just cook and pack lunch baskets for their children. But she did. She had a boy. One day the boy was going off for maybe all day, and I guess his ma thought he would get hungry, and like other ma's, she fixed him a lunch.

**"Historians don't," the old man read aloud, "write much about women that just cook and bake and pack lunch baskets for their children"**

by MARK HAGER

Illustrated by Gordon Collins

"And then I reckon she went to the window and watched her boy go down the road. Watched him until he was gone out of sight. And that evening, I imagine she stood at the same window and watched for him to come home. I guess when she saw him he was kind of running like boys do when they are real anxious to get home, and get in sight of the house.

"And I guess his ma met him as he bounded in at the door, and like all ma's, I guess she asked him did he like his lunch.

"Then I imagine the boy just handed her the basket, being kind of out of breath and speechless just then and she felt the weight of the basket and it was heavier than when she had handed it to the boy that morning and when she asked him about how the basket came to be still full, I know it pleased the boy in the heart to tell her that over at the meeting, the little lunch she had fixed had been blessed, and after that, five thousand men, besides the women and children, had been fed, and after that, twelve basketfuls were gathered up . . ."

Here Mr. Chumley folded the crisp old sheets of paper and he set his eyes again on the little blue blazes that sputtered from the fire wood, and I could tell the old man's mind had gone back across the years to days and to things I knew not of, and I picked up the empty basket and started to leave.

As I neared the door, he called to me.

"Tell Betty," he said, "That I am sending back something to her in the basket. Tell her I have filled the basket with the best that I have . . ."

I could not understand that. I only said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Chumley," and backed out at the door.

I thought of what he had said as I ran down the December road that day with the empty basket, and a little fine snow lashing my face, and the wind making the leaves cry that still clung to the black-jack bushes along the road, but I could not understand.

When I took the basket back to Mrs. Bingham, she was busy in the dining room. She was placing the dishes around her big table for the Christmas dinner for her folks.

"Here's your basket," I said. "And Mr. Chumley said to tell you he filled it with the best he had. I don't know what he meant . . ."

Mrs. Bingham took the basket, and she looked off out the window toward the fields and spoke.

"I do," she said. "I understand. The basket is full . . . full of thanks and good will . . ."

Then, somehow, I understood the meaning of Christmas.

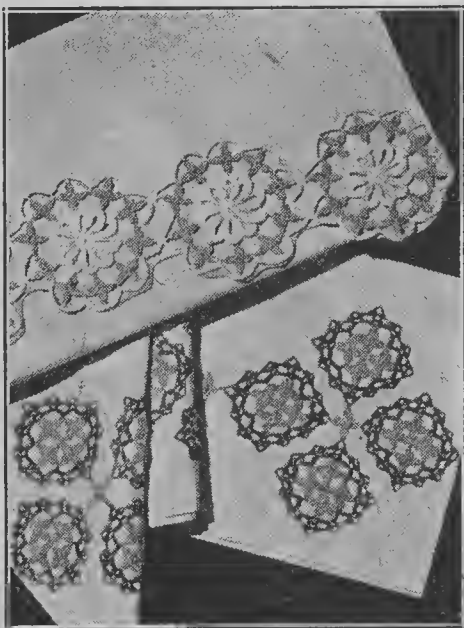
**"It's like Betty Bingham to do this," Mr. Chumley said. "Betty came to school to me—a long time ago."**



# Home Accessories

Gay attractive craft ideas for mid-winter working

by ANNA LOREE

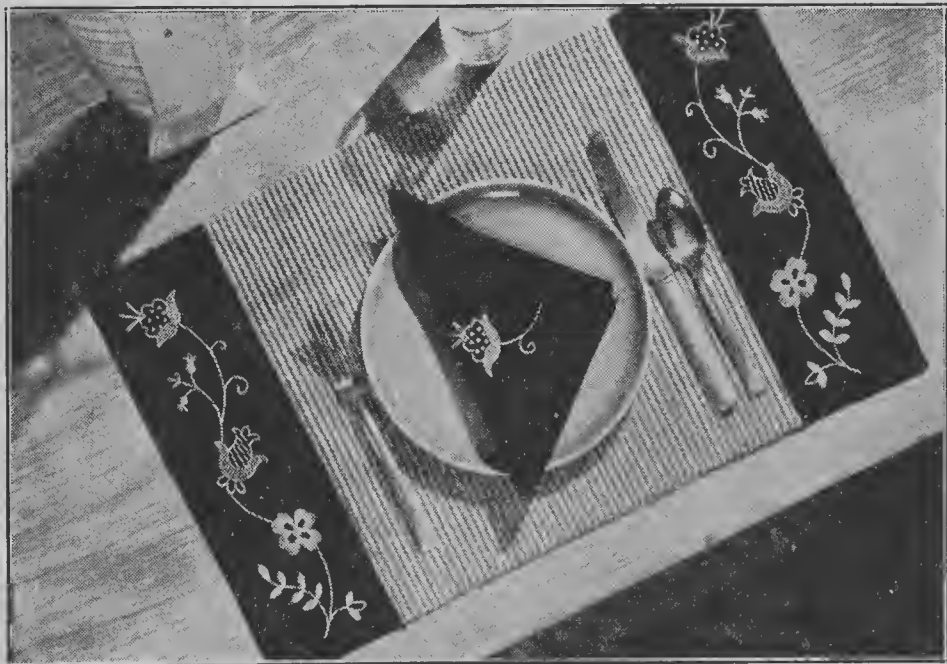


## Design No. P-307

Pillow cases in pink and blue are trimmed with crocheted daisies and forget-me-nots. The daisy edging, done in tones of yellow with accents of deep blue, is applied to the edge of the blue cases. The forget-me-not design, in lavender and green, is made up of three sets of four motifs each and is stitched over the hem of the pink cases. Use size 30 crochet cotton and a number 10 steel hook. Design No. P-307. Price 10 cents.

## Design No. S-22-1

Interesting to make and nice to use is this hollyhock-wreath quilt with its light background and gaily colored print and plain motifs. The design is applied to 11-inch squares of white. The finished quilt for a single bed measures 73 by 115 inches; the double size, 90 by 110 inches. You will need 7 or 9 yards of 36-inch white fabric for single or double sizes. Hollyhock-wreath quilt is Design No. S-22-1. Price 10 cents.



## Design No. E-1589

A conventionalized flower design adds interest and color to this attractive place-mat set for four. A square of fancy-weave decorators' fabric in beige and brown forms the center. On each side are deep brown cotton extensions embroidered in cinnamon-toned threads. Charts for

stitches and colors to use are given. Each mat is about 21 by 12 inches when finished, the serviettes 13 inches square. Materials required included  $\frac{7}{8}$  yard of 50-inch decorators' cloth or 14 inches of 54-inch cotton;  $1\frac{5}{8}$  yards 36-inch broadcloth for bands and serviettes. You will need tracing paper to copy the design. Design No. E-1589. Price 10 cents.

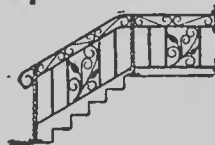
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No. 4894—A pretty basic dress does a quick change by way of white or bright-hued collars and a striped taffeta tie that loops through the neckband of the dress. Sleeves may be three-quarter or short; the skirt flares to 80 inches. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires  $4\frac{1}{8}$  yards 36-inch or  $2\frac{5}{8}$  yards 54-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 4896—The lines of this dress are as flattering to the mature figure as the slender. The V neckline and empire waistline may be piped in velvet or edged in net. The sleeves are short or three-quarter length; the skirt flares to 80 inches. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years; 40 and 42-inch bust. Size 18 requires  $3\frac{5}{8}$  yards 36-inch or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yards 54-inch material. Price 50 cents.

No. 4949—The softly draped neckline adds flattery to this half-size party dress for the shorter figure. Note the short or three-quarter set-in sleeves and the softly pleated skirt. Sizes  $12\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $14\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $16\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $18\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $20\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  and  $24\frac{1}{2}$  (31 to 43-inch bust). Size  $18\frac{1}{2}$  (37-inch bust) requires  $4\frac{1}{4}$  yards 39-inch fabric and  $\frac{3}{8}$  yard for contrasting yoke. Price 50 cents.



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No. 4954—There is a little-lady look to this dress with its wide round collar, fitted bodice and tie sash. Skirt flares to 67 inches. Sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 4 requires  $1\frac{7}{8}$  yards 36-inch material. Price 35 cents.

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## Christmas - -

Continued from page 41

After finishing a Teacher's Training Course, I had gone to teach in a rural school, not far from home. This was my first visit home, since I had left for my new position the previous August. It was such a joy for me again to be among my own people, who though knowing my failings as well as my good qualities, nevertheless, loved me.

I think, that it was because of the gifts I brought for others, that that Christmas stands out as such a happy one for me. I had had the pleasure of choosing a gift for every member of the family. And what a wealth of thought and time went into the choosing! Yes, the first Christmas, when I was able to give as well as receive, stands out as more memorable than any other.—Annie L. Gaetz.

**T**HE most rewarding Christmas I ever had was away back in 1909. Early in my teaching career, I taught in a little white, one-roomed schoolhouse, which stood lonely on the prairie. The children walked, rode or drove as best they could the long, cold miles in winter.

Crops had been poor and it was a lean time for the district. As so often happens in isolated areas, the community was divided into factions. Some disturbing and controversial incident had happened several Christmases before. There was no proper community spirit. The children were growing up in a sort of vendetta atmosphere.

As December 25 drew near, I decided that we would have a school Christmas concert, hoping that the bonds of parenthood would draw families from both sides to see the children perform. To avoid further trouble, we decided to use only school talent, however meagre that might be. It is not easy to provide a varied program with only a few pupils, and they of assorted sizes and ages.

We managed to borrow a small organ and discovered that our home talent was not so meagre after all. One pupil could play the guitar, another the mouth organ. Several could sing nicely. Everyone was anxious to take part. We attempted to do a wand drill, which would include the whole school, from large to small. We were in a quandry about getting wands, when to our surprise and pleasure a tall, dark lad appeared at the schoolhouse door, with a bunch of slender willow wands. He had left school the previous year. Hearing of our dilemma he had spent a whole day on horseback, travelling to a river bottom ten miles distant, cutting and trimming wands for us. Covered with twisted bands of colored tissue paper to resemble candy sticks, they were just the thing needed for the success of our drill.

The room looked dingy in spite of the few gay decorations we had been able to put up. It was cared for by each family taking turns in sweeping it out. No one could remember when last the floor had been washed. We decided to wash the windows and the floor. But what were we to do about hot water?

Again came a surprise! The school board chairman arrived and built a fire outdoors. Soon a boiler of hot water was available and we set to our tasks of cleaning the windows and floor. All this was long before the days of "teach-

ing through projects" but surely ours worked out in a practical way. We made posters to advertise the "Concert." Finally we were ready and waited for the big event, a little doubtfully. Would they come, or wouldn't they? They came.

Never was such an evening spent in the little schoolhouse. People came from miles around. The two warring factions crowded together, side by side on narrow, improvised benches. They had to because we were short of seats.

There were plenty of errors in the program. But who cared? We had a little playlet, in which Santa appeared wearing, of all things, a tall black silk hat. The treats were supposed to be a surprise. But when things have to arrive by mail, the children probably had been anticipating them for several days.

Our concert brought its own reward. By the time it was all over, the people of the district were already planning for a get-together in January.—Elizabeth Content.

**I**N the fall of 1927, my husband and I moved from the Maritimes to a small southern Saskatchewan town. The prairie, with its golden grain waving as far as the eye could see, was a beautiful sight. We had been accustomed to woods, rivers and friendly mountains. We had both learned early that: when in a strange land one seeks the beauty of the new and closets in his heart memories of the old. "Oh for the sight of a tree!" was often in our minds, if not on our lips.

All went well until near Christmas, when my husband returning from a larger town, some 35 miles distant, announced: "We shall have to get along without a Christmas tree this year. The cheap ones you wouldn't want. The money asked for a good one would buy a turkey for dinner."

"Oh, it won't seem like Christmas at all," I exclaimed, "without the tree and the smell of evergreen. But it does seem like a big price to pay." I felt sick at heart. I began then to think of the people who perhaps would not even have a home Christmas dinner: the teacher in a nearby school, far from home; a bachelor local elevator man; the old couple who ran the store, who were barely able to wait on customers. They would perhaps welcome an invitation to our house.

Though busy with preparations, I found time to bring out the box in which were stored tree decorations, the tinsel and gay streamers. I started putting them about the living room. In spite of my best efforts, I could not get the place to look like anything but a stall at a fair. Memory pictures of Christmas in my old home in the East crowded in upon me. I finally gave up and put the things back in the box.

Two days before Christmas, my husband came in late, a mysterious grin on his face. "Would you really like to have a Christmas tree? The school had one for the children this afternoon. The teacher and the children say that you may have it if it is not too large." Too large? No tree could be too large for me right then. No tree was ever decorated with more care.

Christmas Day arrived and so did our guests. They were delighted with everything. But I wondered if they appreciated the tree as much as we did. To us it was a symbol of home, of love and good will.—Elsie Byers.



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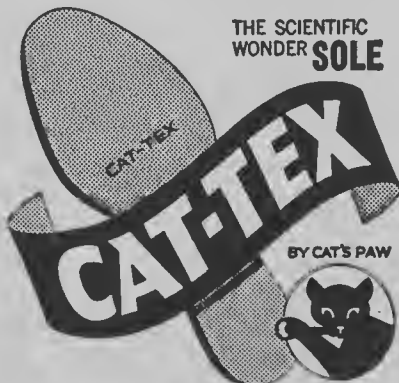
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## Report From Rome

by JOHN ANDERSON

**Selective Agriculture.** At the twentieth meeting of the 24-nation council of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization recently concluded in Rome, emphasis was laid on the need for "selective expansion of production and consumption. The right things being grown in the right areas, it was held, might provide the answer to both shortages and possible surpluses. In particular, special efforts to increase both production and consumption in the underdeveloped areas were called for. While fully supporting the general policy in principle, some of the underdeveloped countries themselves claimed that lack of available investment capital prevented them from doing very much toward helping themselves.

**Rust in Iran.** Of 6,000 wheat plants collected by Dr. H. A. F. Kuckuck, a cereal production expert from Germany, only nine survived when brown rust attacked the Iranian government trial nursery at Karadj. These nine plants, however, Dr. Kuckuck believes, may prove very important in Middle Eastern agriculture in helping to determine which of the multitude of available wheat varieties offer the best possibilities for high-yield, rust-free production. Dr. Kuckuck has been investigating cereal production in Iran, under arrangements made by FAO.

**For the Bees.** From the time of the Pharaohs, bees along the Nile have lived in cylindrical hives, fashioned in mud, by the countrymen—the native fellahin. It has long been known that bees produce more honey if they are housed in properly constructed square-shaped boxes. About a year ago, S. T. Farouky, an FAO adviser from Transjordan, began to experiment at the Arab States Fundamental Education Center at Sirs-el-Layan, to see if a suitable box-shaped hive could not be made cheaply from local materials. After trials and failures one was eventually produced with a framework of date palm branches, covered with an artificially improved type of mud.

The question remained, "Can the bees throw off nearly 6,000 years of tradition and grow to like their new home? Now, after nearly a year's trial, we have the answer. The bees like it."

**Quality over Quantity.** Goats have always been something of a problem in North Africa. Eating the young tree shoots as fast as they appear out of the ground, they have stripped the country of its ancient forests and helped to make the desert what it is. But you cannot outlaw the goat, for it can live where no other animal could possibly survive. Also, it provides the poor man with meat, milk and clothing. FAO now believes that the answer is to improve the quality of goat herds—fewer goats, but better ones—the same production of meat and milk and perhaps the same cash value, but fewer mouths to nibble at the young trees.

## Odd and Interesting

(One in a series of farm inventions from the files of the U.S. Patent Office)

by MIKE RIVISE

**ILIA SEMOTIUK** of Vegreville, Alberta, must have loved animals—particularly mules. He made a careful study of them. He'd learned that they were stubborn only because the human species lacked a sense of humor. So why not *tickle* the mule into good humor?

Let Semotiuk speak for himself:

"It is well known by all students of natural history that a mule's skin has little sensibility, especially where covered with hair on most parts of the animal. It is also well known that the underside of a mule's tail at the part adjacent to the body is without hair.

"... So I therefore ran a rope under the tail where it will produce a tickling effect as to distract the attention of the mule and cause him at once to move forward."

Hence, with a complicated arrangement of a chain, wheels, rope and a tickler he invented his "Antibalking Device" that went down in patent history as 1253733, on January 15, 1918.

## A Winter Road

by MAUD STRIKE



**M**ANY country roads have to be plowed for winter use, else rural dwellers would have a difficult time reaching town for mail and groceries.

Few people use the horse as a means of travel nowadays, therefore the road must be opened in some way

or other for cars and trucks to negotiate the trail. The accompanying picture shows a road plowed with a home-made snow plow, thus illustrating what can be done when there is an enterprising mechanic on the farm.

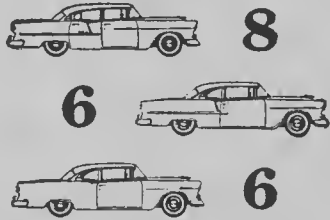


# What's new with Chevrolet? Everything!



## Wonderful new Glide-Ride Front Suspension

New spherical joints flex freely to cushion all road shocks. New Anti-Dive Braking Control assures level, "heads up" stops.

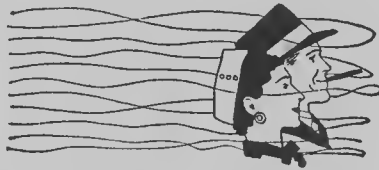


## Great new V8 — two new 6's

New "Turbo-Fire V8" delivers 162 h.p. with an ultra-high compression ratio of 8 to 1. There are two new 6's, too — the new "Blue-Flame 136" with Powerglide (optional at extra cost) and the new "Blue-Flame 123".

## And look what you see from the driver's seat

Chevrolet's new Sweep-Sight Windshield gives you a wider view of the road ahead. Rear and side windows are bigger, too. And you can see all four fenders from the driver's seat!

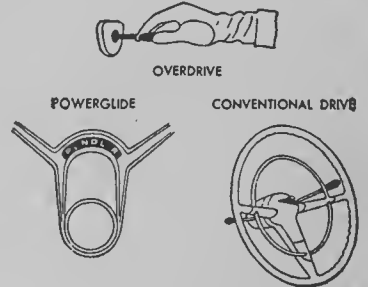


## A ventilating system that really works

Chevrolet's new High-Air Ventilating System takes in air at hood-high level, away from road heat, fumes and dust.

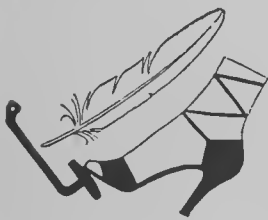
## New Outrigger Rear Springs

Rear springs are longer — and they're attached at the outside of the frame — spaced wider apart, outrigger-fashion, to give you greater stability in cornering.



## Three drives including Overdrive

Take your choice. Powerglide teamed with the new V8 or the new "Blue-Flame 136". New Overdrive teamed with the new V8 or the new "Blue-Flame 123". (Powerglide and Overdrive are extra-cost options.) Or a new standard transmission offered with either the new V8 or the "Blue-Flame 123".



## Easier steering, stopping, clutching

The new Chevrolet steers with ball-bearing ease, thanks to new Ball-Race Steering. New Swing-Type Brake and Clutch Pedals operate with a light pressure of your toe.

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and built a car to fit the dream . . . the *motoramic* Chevrolet for 1955.

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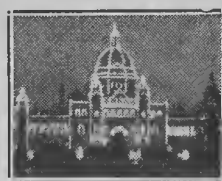
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## Notes from British Columbia



The Tlaguna herd of Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Kournosoff of Chilliwack has been named Canada's highest rated production Jersey herd, and the highest average production herd of all breeds in British Columbia under that province's herd test plan. Average of the ten cows that have completed records in this herd is 10,477 pounds of milk, and 497 pounds of fat, with an average test of 5.7 per cent. As a result of their herd's proficiency, the owners have been declared Constructive Breeders by the Canadian Jersey Cattle Club, the highest honor a Jersey breeder can win. ✓

Easy, carefree farming is the goal of Howard Rogerson, who is breeding shaggy, Scottish Highland cattle on his Aldergrove farm in the Lower Fraser Valley. Because of their thick coat of long, fine hair, Highland cattle need no buildings for winter protection, and they eat anything from cedar trees to nettles and devil's club, it is reported. The result—no barns to clean and repair, no implements needed to sow and till crops, and very little work. When feed of any kind is cheap, the Rogersons buy it, and generally for less than it would cost them to grow it themselves. Calves are all born in the bush; because young heifers don't mature until they are two years old, they don't have to be segregated as do other breeds. Highlands don't give a great volume of milk, it's true, but their butterfat test of 7.5 per cent is the highest of any breed. ✓

Mechanical harvesting of raspberries was forecast by District Horticulturist W. D. Christie, speaking at Chilliwack last month. This would allow higher unit production and lower unit costs by reducing the hand labor involved in the present method. Machine picking, however, will mean that growers will have to concentrate on berry varieties which are adaptable to machines. Some growers may have to go out of the business if they haven't enough acreage to support machine picking methods. ✓

Not one dairy farmer out of 100 is getting enough to cover his production costs, labor costs, and general investment, Joseph Vonesch of Upper Sumas stated before the Royal Commission now investigating milk marketing in British Columbia. Dairy farmer Vonesch produced figures on the production of an 80-acre farm. Based on prices for 3.5 per cent milk in 1952, 1953, and 10 months of 1954, these show a steady decline in receipts during that time of from \$4.66, to \$4.46, to \$4.22 per 100 pounds of milk. ✓

## The Birth Of Windy Willy

A COUPLE of years ago, when the Municipality of Kneehill, Alberta, needed a field supervisor to take over the district program under the Municipal Service Board, they found C. E. Ruby, a district old-timer, recently retired from his farm. Now,

from his office in Three Hills, Mr. Ruby has demonstrated that, though some of the jobs require a little originality, with it they can be effectively carried out.

For instance, one of the first jobs that needed doing was to seed grass along the new grading on roads newly built or repaired. When he got stuck with his equipment three times the first day out, from venturing too close to the ditch, he decided some changes



*Windy Willy in action on the roads of Kneehill Municipality.*

in equipment must be made. His son Bruce, who has taken over the home farm, was given the problem, and he came up with "Windy Willy" to meet his father's needs. "Windy" is a hopper mounted above a blower, and easily set in the back of the half-ton truck. A small gasoline motor supplies the power to blow a spray of grass seed through an attached pipe and over the roadside. Now Mr. Ruby seeds the roadside at 20 miles per hour and has put crested wheatgrass along 200 miles of new grading. ✓

## Make Christmas Trees Last Longer

CHRISTMAS trees are very often kept in the house from the night before Christmas until New Year's Day. In addition, they are usually brought home and stored for a day or two before setting them up. This means that they must exist in

rooms that are sometimes quite warm, for so long that the needles may begin to shed much sooner than is desirable.

To avoid this, try to get a freshly cut tree, if possible, and when it is brought home store it in a cool, damp place until it is set up.

When the tree is ready to set up, cut off two or three inches of the butt, and do it at an angle. It will help if you mount the tree in a bucket containing a fair amount of water. It can be kept firm by filling the bucket with stones after the tree is in place and then pouring in the water to fill up the spaces between the stones. Sand, if available, will do nicely, and will hold the tree more firmly if thoroughly moistened.

Trees handled this way will stay comparatively fresh and green, because the moisture evaporated through the needles can be replaced. It is worth remembering, also, that needles that are moist and green do not burn as readily as when they are dry. ✓

## Fertilizer On One Farm

IN 1952, Everett Harvey, who grain farms on the rich and productive wheat land just west of Rosetown, Saskatchewan, bought a press drill and fertilizer attachment, to try commercial fertilizer on his crop for the first time. A mistake in setting up the machine caused him to start out with an application of 70 pounds of fertilizer per acre rather than 35, and only half-a-bushel of wheat. Then he decided to make it a trial; he cut out the fertilizer altogether for a few rounds, still seeding only half-a-bushel. When the harvest was in, that fertilized piece yielded twice as much grain.

He is certain that fertilizer paid off in higher yields and earlier maturity, that first year. The test strips showed it plainly. There was a difference in the grain itself, too—that from the fertilized fields bulked heavier.

This year,—a disastrous one for many grain farmers,—he is not as certain that the fertilizer paid. In a year when grades are consistently low, he says that his own fertilized fields are no better.—D.R.B. ✓

## Electric Drill Does a New Job

by J. GILBERT HALL



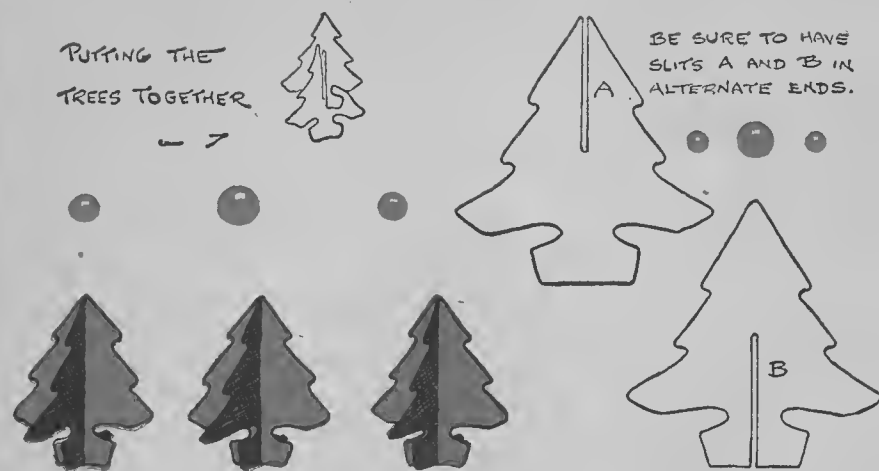
THERE is one less "scooping job" on the Oklahoma A. & M. College demonstration farm these days, because of a new development, using the farm's regular half-inch electric drill as power.

W. F. Lott, farm manager, tried it out with oats and fell in love with it immediately. "All you've got to do is turn it on and let it go," he says.

The gadget is about the most inexpensive item around the farm. ✓



# The Country Boy and Girl



**Y**OU'VE been busy, we know, planning Christmas surprises for your family and friends. You've saved up your spending money to buy gifts or materials to make gifts for those you love, for whoever heard of anyone having a really Merry Christmas unless he did his part in making it a Merry Christmas for someone else? Sometimes your gifts become so exciting that you want to talk about them, but we hope you manage to keep them a secret.

Would you like to make some Christmas trees that stand alone? They make lovely decorations for a Christmas table, or mantel. You can hang them on the tips of your Christmas tree branches. A tree about six inches tall and five and one-half inches at the widest part of the tree is a good size. From green cardboard cut the trees two at a time so they will match. Then as you see in the diagram you slit one tree about halfway down from the top and the other tree halfway up starting at the bottom, then fit them together. If you wish you can decorate your little trees with bits of silver and gold paper or stars. Two or three trees standing in a row on artificial snow make a centerpiece for your table. Best wishes for a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

*Ann Sankey*

## Jennifer and Gypsy

by Mary Grannan

**J**ENNIFER put down her pen, sealed her letter, put on her coat and hat, and ran to the mailbox at the corner. Breathless, she returned to the house, and to the kitchen.

"I did it, Mum. It's all done, and gone," the little girl said.

"What's all done and gone, Jennifer?" asked Mrs. Page.

The little girl laughed. "My letter to Santa Claus," she said. "I wrote it. I asked for it. I posted the letter. Do you suppose he'll bring it to me?"

Mrs. Page sat down at the kitchen table, and looked at Jennifer. "Miss Page," she said, "I cannot answer your question because I have no idea what you asked Santa Claus to bring you."

"Then I'll tell you," said Jennifer. "I'll tell you exactly what I wrote, Dear Santa Claus,

Will you please bring me a little dog for Christmas? I'd like one with long ears that flap, and with a short tail that wags. I'd like him to be brown and white with a silky coat. If you bring me a little dog, I'll be good to him, and I'll play with him, and I'll love him. Please, please Santa Claus, bring me a little brown and white dog with flappy ears and a waggy tail.

"and I signed my name. Do you think he will?"

Mrs. Page laughed at her eager little daughter. "I don't see how he could refuse, darling," she said. "It was a nice and a polite letter."

Jennifer smiled and nodded her head. "Yes, it was, wasn't it? I said 'please' three times. I hope he gets the letter. I put a stamp on it."

Mrs. Page assured Jennifer that the letter would reach Santa Claus, well before Christmas eve. She went back to her work. Jennifer went to the

living room, to think of the happy days to come, when she would romp with her little brown and white dog with flappy ears, and waggy tail.

There was just such a little dog in the kennels up on the hilltop, and not far from where Jennifer lived. The little dog's name was Gypsy, and he was the merriest little dog.

The black cocker in the stall next to his, sighed unhappily. "You may not be so jolly after Christmas."

"Why?" asked Gypsy, with a flick of his tail. "Why won't I be happy?"

"Because you won't be here then. You'll be sold for a Christmas present, and you may not get as kind a master as you have now," said Blackie.

"Oh, yes I shall," said Gypsy. "I'll choose my master, or mistress. I'll know the minute I see him or her to whom I want to belong."

"But you can't do the choosing, Gypsy," said Blackie. "You have to go with the person who buys you."

The next day was Saturday. Mr. Page was at home. In the early afternoon he suggested that they drive out to the hilltop kennels to see the cocker spaniels. "There may be one out there like the one you asked Santa Claus for, Jennifer," he said. "Your mother and I would like to know just what kind of a little dog you had in mind."

Jennifer was delighted with the idea. When she was half-dancing, half-hopping down the aisles between the stalls at the kennels, Gypsy saw her. He barked to draw Blackie's attention. "Blackie," he said joyfully, "there she comes now."

"Who?" asked Blackie.

"My mistress," said Gypsy. "There she is in the red snowsuit. I'm going to be her little dog, and she's going to be my little girl. I'm going to call to her. Woof, woof, woof."

Jennifer saw little Gypsy, and squealed in delight. "Oh, Oh, you

little darling. I love you. I love you." She ran to Gypsy and encircled him in her arms. "Daddy!" she cried, "I've found my dog. This is the little dog I want. Please buy him for me."

Mrs. Page shook her head. "Jennifer. You've already ordered your dog from Santa Claus. You can't have two dogs, you know."

Jennifer's face fell. "But Mum, this is my dog. I couldn't love any other little dog but this."

Mr. Page assured Jennifer that she would change her mind on Christmas morning. "And you wouldn't want to hurt Santa's feelings by writing him another letter."

Sad of heart, and with tearful eyes, Jennifer gave Gypsy a final pat, and followed her mother and father. Blackie nodded his head.

"I told you that you couldn't choose, Gypsy," he said.

Gypsy pulled himself up proudly. "Do you think I give up that easily? Jennifer wants me, and I want her. I'm going to go to Santa Claus. Do you know where he lives?"

Blackie nodded his head again. "It's that way," he said, pointing toward the northland, "but it's a long way."

Gypsy told Blackie that distance didn't matter. No trail, however long, was going to prevent him from making the journey. He planned to escape at dinnertime, when the kennel boy released him for his evening meal.

"Blackie, you keep him occupied while I get away."

Blackie didn't approve of the scheme, but he promised to help. Gypsy was successful. Before the kennel boy discovered him missing, the little spaniel was well on his way. The first few days were not too difficult. He was cold and hungry to be sure, but his legs were strong, and he was filled with the eagerness of purpose. On the fourth day he began to tire. On the fifth, he was knee deep in snowdrifts. He became afraid. He cried to the moon. The Moon Man saw him, and heard his story.

"Be of good heart, Gypsy," he said. "I'll send the Northwind to help you."

The northwind came, picked up the tousled little dog, and carried him to Santa's ice palace. With one last blast, he blew open the front door, and Gypsy went sliding across the floor to Santa's feet.

Gypsy did not have to explain a thing to Santa Claus. He knew what had happened, and promised to leave Gypsy under Jennifer's tree.

On Christmas morning, when Jennifer found him, she caught him up in her arms and said, "Gypsy, you found the way to Santa Claus, didn't you?"

Gypsy nodded his head. He wished that Blackie could know that he had found the mistress of his choosing, and that he was having a very Merry Christmas.

## Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 34 in series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



**W**HEN snow blankets the prairies and the foothills and hoarfrost coats each window, does the landscape painter lay aside his brushes and paints? If he is sufficiently keen to disregard the discomforts of frost-stiffened fingers and tingling ears, he will find that the countryside in winter has a rare beauty of its own.

It is only now, when the concealing foliage and flowers are gone, that the underlying structure of the landscape becomes visible with its massive folds and contours. In the foothill country especially, the size and the swell of the curving slopes that merge so gracefully into one another, make a pattern of converging lines leading the eye into the distance.

On a dull grey day, these curving slopes are deceiving. At first glance

they may look flat, like shapes cut out of cardboard. On a bright sunny day, with every fold and shadow thrown into sharp relief, the shape of the land is best studied.

An experience which will impress indelibly on your mind the contour of the hills may be gained by reaching a high point and looking down on a snowshoe trail wandering over the hills, disappearing into the ravines or coulees, reappearing again on a farther slope. A snowshoe trail is for this kind of study better than an animal track. Tracks of animals usually wander aimlessly here and there and do not often give so clear an impression of the contours as the track of a man, who is headed toward a definite destination and making straight for it.

## THE *Country* GUIDE

with which is incorporated

THE NOR'-WEST FARMER and FARM and HOME  
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VOL. LXXIII WINNIPEG, DECEMBER, 1954 No. 12

### The Railway Award

THE award of the Chief Justice of British Columbia, as sole arbitrator appointed by the Federal Government in a dispute between the railways and the non-operating unions, will long be remembered. In adjudicating a dispute carrying a price tag of \$60 million to the railroads and \$34 million to the unions, he awarded \$6,931,000 in the form of paid statutory holidays and longer vacations with pay. Coupled with this award was the gratuitous comment that the railways cannot meet this added cost out of present revenues; that the Crow's Nest rates on western grain are a major factor responsible for this inability; and that the alleged effects of these rates should be born in some fair degree by the Treasury.

Having awarded the unions much less than they had asked for and assessed the railways much more than they wanted to pay, how could they both be humored? Surely the Crow's Nest rates would do, because their "consequential effects" were believed by the Chief Justice to be a major factor contributing to the present serious decline in rail revenue.

Before the release of this award, N. R. Crump, senior vice-president of the C.P.R., speaking in Vancouver, appeared to agree with Chief Justice Sloan. In 1953 one-third of the C.P.R.'s freight traffic moved under the Crow's Nest grain rates, which he termed unremunerative. Railway rates, he thought, should be fixed in accordance with "the realities of the situation." Earlier, before the one-man Royal Commission inquiring into the "agreed charges" issue in Ottawa, the vice-president of research and development for the C.N.R. said nothing about the Crow's Nest rates, although he did say that "there is no other conclusion but that the railway industry is sick." It was sick from too much regulation, which did not permit railways to compete with other forms of transportation. As a result, "truck competition is the most important economic problem facing the transportation industry today."

The Crow's Nest rates on western grain have been the subject of many inquiries. The last was in 1951, by the Royal Commission on Transportation, headed by Mr. Justice Turgeon. In a special chapter devoted to these rates, no justification was found for the belief that any lack of revenue from these relatively low grain rates would impose serious hardship on shippers as a whole, or on any class of shippers. The Commission also concluded from its study of the matter that there was not much to be said against the rates either, as far as any injurious effect on the railways was concerned.

It seems to us that the railway transportation problem in Canada is already sufficiently thorny, without arbitrators in labor disputes assuming to advise on sources of railway revenues. There is ample machinery to handle these matters in Canada; and the railways, themselves, appear in the past to have been fairly capable of presenting their own problems to the Board of Transport Commissioners, and from time to time to royal commissions. V

### Built-In Security

SUMNER H. SLICHTER of Harvard University recently suggested that "the old-fashioned business cycle is being broken up into a number of more or less independent cycles which do not move up and down together." After commenting that in the recent recession the consumption of services has expanded, expenditures on construction have risen and

personal incomes have decreased very slightly, he suggests that what he calls the attack on the old-fashioned business cycle began with public policies, or built-in stabilizers such as fiscal and credit policies, old age pensions and unemployment compensation. To these may be added industrial old age pensions and long-range investment planning by business management.

The same forces have been at work in Canada, but agriculture is as yet comparatively insecure. It is worth noting that a new social security program for farm families, which is compulsory for all farmers having net profits of \$400, has been introduced this year in the United States. The cost of the program is three per cent of net profits, where the latter range between \$400 and \$4,200.

Recently, in Ottawa, the question has been raised as to what the most desirable blend is between taxes and social security, or between free enterprise and social security. It would be fair to say that existing federal agricultural legislation, for example, is designed on the one hand to encourage self-help, as illustrated by co-operative organizations, and on

### A Merry Christmas to All

ONCE more the Christmas season approaches! Of all holiday celebrations it is the merriest, and at the same time the most solemn in its significance. No other celebration is so universally observed; none strikes deeper into the heart and mind of mankind.

No celebration in the western world so exemplifies the long, slow process of civilization, the infinite variety of the mind of man, and the depth of his yearning for spiritual peace. Many of the customs of Christmas derive from the days of ancient pagan worship, but despite the passing of the centuries, science with all its new-found knowledge cannot yet fathom the meaning of the day to any two individuals, much less the hundreds of millions who observe it. Nor can anyone do more than wonder that for this one brief 24-hour period in each year, the bitter strife between Arab and Jew is laid aside in Jerusalem, the Holy City, and "Merry Christmas" becomes a common greeting.

Christmas is the one day, the pinnacle of the year, which, by common consent, is recognized as the focal point of our aspirations. We welcome it, among the strivings and the trials and tribulations of other days, as a day of faith, hope and good will. "On earth peace, good will toward men" may have many meanings, but for each individual it has some meaning, which the spirit of Christianity has fixed in the minds and hearts of men as desirable and good.

The celebration of the Nativity on one fixed day—December 25—dates from the fourth century, and over the intervening 15 centuries we have built around this day, symbols of joy and happiness that are ever new and satisfying. Carols and hymns have come to us from many countries. Our Santa Claus, with his origin in charity toward the poor, now caters to the innocence and wonder of childhood. Our brightly decorated trees contribute to the joy and happiness of the occasion. Our gifts are expressions of charity and good will. Our Christmas dinners measure our contentment and well-being; and our singing signifies our spiritual content.

Hence the many-sided meaning of Christmas among all people everywhere, who celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus. Hence jolly old Santa Claus, the joy of children, and the appropriateness of color and laughter. Hence, too, our renewed hope for the welfare of the masses of people, and for a peaceful relationship between all nations. It is because these hopes, beliefs and aspirations are so inextricably bound up with the spirit of Christmas that, even though we may be conscious that there are dark clouds of sorrow and doubt and conflict and disbelief about us, we still can repeat gladly the age-old Christmas greeting,

A Merry Christmas to All.

the other, to offset certain hazards inherent in agriculture, with the aid of the Agricultural Price Supports Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, and P.F.R.A. Whether the current blend is the most satisfactory one, is always debatable in a democracy.

Recently, in Manitoba, the provincial government has appointed a fact-finding commission, whose duty it will be to investigate the feasibility of crop insurance in the province. It will not be the first time the subject has been studied in Canada, but if a feasible plan is ultimately put into effect in Manitoba, it will be the first of its kind in this country. A federal scheme has been operating in the United States for some years and, with increasing experience, seems to have achieved increased efficiency and usefulness.

One advantage which a crop insurance scheme appears to possess, where it is feasible, is that it should prove to be largely, if not entirely, self-supporting over the years, as well as self-liquidating as to money advanced by the government, except for administrative expense. Under such conditions it would qualify as a built-in stabilizer for the economy of the province as well as for the industry and be secured at little cost to the taxpayer.

### World Lending Corporation

THE problems relating to the peace of the world now take up more of the attention of national governments than do any other matters for which they are held responsible. Aside from international defence organizations, there is a growing number of social, economic and trade organizations which have as their common object, the development of a peaceful and prosperous world. Among these are the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Colombo Plan.

Facing all of these organizations stand the specters of hunger and privation, which are the breeding grounds of hunger, discontent, and conflict. The conditions are personified by the peoples of the backward and undeveloped countries of the world, who number hundreds of millions. Except for comparatively minor gifts and other forms of assistance these countries can best be aided by helping them to help themselves. They need to develop native industries so that their international trade may be increased and their standards of living raised. This requires large amounts of capital, the most of which must eventually come from private investors. These, in turn, must be assured that their money will be safe.

Last month in Rio de Janeiro a 21-nation meeting began, the purpose of which was to consider proposed new international finance corporation which would operate as an affiliate of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It would work, for the most part—and more or less experimentally—among the Latin-American countries. Its \$100-million capital would operate on a revolving fund basis. The United States would provide 35 per cent of the capital, the United Kingdom 14 per cent, China 6.5 per cent, France 5.6 per cent, India 4.5 per cent, Germany and Canada each 3.5 per cent, and so on down to Panama's small contribution of \$5,000.

Some such device as this is believed necessary to spur private investments in these needy areas. Peace is indivisible, and it is clear that money to assist in the development of underdeveloped countries must come from those nations that are better off. The United States, with about six per cent of the world's people, is said to have approximately 40 per cent of the world's annual income. This is an entirely disproportionate distribution of world income, and the very large sums of international aid distributed by the United States during recent years by no means operate as levelling devices. It is in fact, doubtful whether sharing of wealth, even if it could be effected, would in the long run prove advisable. What is most necessary is a sharing of opportunity, and in such a prospect lies any merit that the proposed world lending body may possess.